

Fall in jobless is the biggest for 7 1/2 years

Unemployment has started to fall as a result of the Government's special measures, according to figures released yesterday. The jobless total recorded its largest underlying fall for seven and a half years.



This is a false dawn. We are now seeing the evidence of 17 fiddles of the unemployment figures since this government came into office.

Mr Ian Wrigglesworth, the Social Democratic Party spokesman on economics and industry, said: "The Government now faces a yawning cavern of credibility. The 3.3 million jobless have never had it so bad. The Government should now switch its effort to creating real jobs instead of Lord Young's inadequate palliatives."

Mr Norman Willis, the TUC general secretary, said: "There is no sign of any real change in the unacceptably high level of unemployment, which still stands at 74,000 higher than this time last year."

Mr John Prescott, Labour spokesman on employment, said: "While we welcome any reduction in unemployment, this month's figures... can only give encouragement to all concerned about the level of unemployment in the country."

But Opposition politicians accused the Government of presenting misleading figures and of failing to create real jobs in the economy.

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Mrs Thatcher and President Mitterrand in harmony outside No 10 yesterday.

Mitterrand in arms accord

Britain and France agreed yesterday that a nuclear deterrent should be maintained as the basis of the defence of the West.

During a two-hour Downing Street meeting Mrs Thatcher and President Mitterrand were united in the view that the Geneva arms control negotiations should proceed against the background of a nuclear deterrent.

After the meeting, Mitterrand told reporters there would be no change in the French nuclear policy. It would only ever be reconsidered if the Russians and Americans made "drastic" reductions in their nuclear arsenals.

Mr Mitterrand had requested yesterday's meeting to prepare for the European heads of government meeting in London in December and the Franco-British summit in Paris in November.

More than three-quarters of the discussions centred on the Reagan-Gorbachov summit in Iceland. Mrs Thatcher and Mitterrand agreed that progress had been made.

Mr Mitterrand apparently repeated his own opposition to the Strategic Defence Initiative, but was clearly anxious in the discussions and afterwards not to make it a sticking-point.

Russians let sick scientist out

Dr David Goldfarb, the ailing Soviet geneticist who refused to help the KGB compromise Mr Nicolas Daniloff, was yesterday allowed to leave Moscow with his wife, Cecilia.

Dr Goldfarb's son, who is in the US, said last month that he feared for his father's life, and appealed to President Reagan to take up the case with the Soviet authorities. It is understood that the issue was raised by Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, during human rights talks in Reykjavik.

The State Department said it had been watching his case closely for a number of years, but it had no further details about his departure, which was arranged by the personal intervention of Dr Hammer, aged 88, the chairman of Occidental Petroleum and a long-time confidant of the Soviet leader.

Mr Alex Goldfarb said his father was asked by the KGB to invite Mr Daniloff, The US

A serious rift between Nato military commanders and Washington has left its most senior officers angry and frustrated at the lack of consultation over arms reduction proposals (Peter Davenport writes from Brussels).

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Queen inspects ghostly guard

The Queen continued her state visit to China yesterday by reviewing the stiffest guard of honour she has ever shot a glance at, while the Duke of Edinburgh loosed off one of his celebrated sharp remarks, teetering between truth and levity, which indicated that he found Peking boring.

The royal couple flew from Shanghai to the north-western city of Xian to inspect one of the greatest archaeological discoveries of the century: the buried army of terracotta warriors that guard the tomb of Qin Shi Huang, who in the 3rd century BC was the first emperor to unify China.

In a huge excavated pit under a vast arch-roofed hangar almost as big as St Pancras station, 1,087 life-size figures of baked clay, every one slightly different and each the colour of the surrounding pale brown earth, stand in silent and spectacular testimony to the determination of one man to be remembered 2,000 years after his death.

The Queen descended the 30ft pit and inspected this ghostly guard with a greater intimacy than she would accord to, say, the Brigade of Guards. She touched them and felt their fine detail and showed great interest in their footwear.

At times, all that could be seen as she walked the deep and narrow excavated trenches was an aquamarine hat bobbing among a rank of tall and unblinking warriors.

The Emperor Qin, who made his capital city of Xian flourish to three times the size of its imperial contemporary, Rome, built this bizarre catacomb in his own lifetime for his own immortality. There are about 6,000 warriors, most of whom have been killed by the Russians to silence him.

MOSCOW: The Kremlin's chief spokesman, Mr Gerasimov, yesterday removed the ambiguity surrounding Moscow's stand on arms control by flatly ruling out any chance of a deal on European missile reduction separate from the issue of Star Wars, on which there are deep disagreements with the US (Christopher Walker writes).

Pressed by western reporters at the first briefing here since the breakdown of the Reykjavik summit, Mr Gerasimov ended the confusion caused by earlier remarks made in London and Bonn by Mr Viktor Karpov, the chief Soviet arms negotiator at an unrelated agreement on eliminating super power missiles in Europe was still feasible.

Portfolio Gold

The £4,000 prize in The Times Portfolio Gold competition was shared yesterday by four readers - Mr David R. Frost, of Bromley Common, Kent; Mrs O.L. Evans, of Luxwood, West Sussex; Mrs D. Halesworth, of Sheringham, Norfolk; and Mr Ramen Bhattacharya, of Merton Park, London.

There is another £4,000 to be won today. Portfolio list, page 25; how to play, information service, page 20.

Two awarded Nobel prizes

The Nobel Prize for Literature has been awarded to Wole Soyinka, the Nigerian playwright, poet, and novelist. Mr James McGill Buchanan, of George Mason University in Virginia, has been awarded the Nobel Prize for Economics.

Group boost

Mr James Sherwood, president of Sea Containers, the owners of Sealink British Ferries, said he had no doubt about the "financial integrity" of his group.

Granada buy

Granada Group is to pay the Ladbroke Group £30.25 million for Laskys, the consumer electronics retail chain which lost £645,000 pretax in the year to the end of June.

Tory right holds grip on Whips

The march of the Tory right through Mrs Margaret Thatcher's administration continued yesterday with the appointment of three new Whips in the Commons.

They are Mr Michael Portillo, aged 33, MP for Enfield Southgate, Mr Richard Ryder, aged 37, MP for Norfolk Mid, and Mr David Lightbown, aged 53, MP for Staffordshire South East.

Mr Portillo, a former ministerial special adviser and oil industry consultant, is a member of the 92 Group and the robustly Thatcherite No-Turning-Back faction of Conservative MPs.

He was due to become second Parliamentary private secretary to the Prime Minister in the September reshuffle, a move that was called off after protests by Mr Michael Allison, MP for Selby, the incumbent PPS.

Mr Ryder, who worked in Mrs Thatcher's private office for six years up to 1981, is also seen as being on the right of the party.

The appointment of Mr Lightbown, director of an engineering company, maintains the regional balance in the 14-strong whips office.

Speech by Lawson disappoint

Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, in a low-key speech at the Mansion House last night, defended his decision to raise interest rates by 1 per cent on Tuesday.

The speech was expected to disappoint foreign exchange markets where the pound was trading in anticipation of his remarks.

Sterling ended the day in London at 67.7 per cent of its 1975 value, up 0.1 on the previous close. It closed at \$1.4402 and at DM2.8434.

Mr Lawson emphasized that Government borrowing was firmly under control.

To support his remarks the latest figures for the public sector borrowing requirement showed borrowing of £2.2 billion in September - lower than the financial markets expected.

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Stoppage halts new Jaguar

Nearly 1,000 Jaguar assembly workers at Coventry halted production of the XJ40 yesterday, only two days after it went on show at the International Motor Show.

The men walked out in protest at a time and motion study intended to increase production of the new model, which already has a six month waiting list in Britain.

A Jaguar spokesman said: "When a new car is under production, there are productivity improvements that can be made to meet orders, but objections have been raised over the setting of new work standards."

Mr Ron Newcombe, local convenor for the Transport and General Workers Union, said no meetings with the company were planned.

Israeli jet shot down over Sidon

Israel had a jet shot down in a raid on a Palestinian camp outside the Lebanese port of Sidon yesterday. It was the 13th raid this year but the first warplane lost in such an attack.

The two crewmen were apparently captured by Amal Shia Muslim militiamen after parachuting when the aircraft was hit by a missile above Mieh Mieh camp.

The raid appears to have been retaliation for the grenade attack on soldiers in Jerusalem on Wednesday, in which a civilian was killed and 69 people injured.

Before the jets left Mr Yitzhak Rabin, the Defence Minister, said: "We must make an effort to strike at terrorist elements... perpetrated this attack and those who are located far from us."

Patten asks for extra £40m in aid

The Cabinet is facing a demand from senior ministers for the first substantial increase in the overseas aid programme since the Conservatives took office in 1979.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, and Mr Christopher Patten, the recently appointed Minister for Overseas Development, are believed to be pressing for a £40 million increase on the sum which had already been agreed.

Mr Patten failed last week to reach an agreement with Mr John Macgregor, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, who is in charge of the Treasury's efforts to keep the 1987-88 spending total to the target of £144 billion and has been holding discussions through the summer with the spending ministers.

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Champagne producers expect a bumper year

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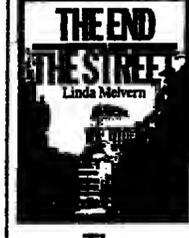
Britain recently overtook the United States to become France's No 1 client for champagne, buying 15.3 million bottles last year. That nevertheless remains a drop in the ocean compared with the 122 million bottles drunk in million bottles drunk in France itself. A recent poll showed that 93 per cent of the French consider champagne "indispensable" for special occasions, while 41 per cent consider it indispensable simply for a dinner with friends.

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Exclusive next week



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NEWS SUMMARY

Youths clue in double killing

Detectives hunting the killer of two Brighton schoolgirls were given a vital lead yesterday by a woman who saw two youths running away from the park where the girls were found murdered (Michael McCarthy writes).

The youths, in their late teens or early twenties, were seen only a 100 yards from where Nicola Fellows, aged 10, and Karen Hadaway, aged nine, were found, about the time they were missing last Thursday evening. Both were sexually assaulted before being strangled.

A woman walking her dog saw them hurrying down a set of steps known as Jacob's Steps, at Wild Park and then run across the busy A27 Brighton to Lewes main road into the Moulsecoomb Estate, where the girls lived. The youths, who were casually dressed in sweaters and jeans, ran off in different directions.

The police, who want them to come forward, have always considered that there might be more than one killer, as there was no explanation why one girl had not attempted to run away while her friend was being attacked. Both bodies were found next to each other with no signs of a struggle.

Ruskin ban attacked

Lord Amman, former vice-chancellor of London University, has called on the Government to withhold further funds to Ruskin College, Oxford, in protest at its treatment of Mr David Selbourne, a lecturer in politics.

He said in the Lords yesterday that Mr Selbourne "has been deprived of his lectureship" for writing an article in *The Times*.

He described Mr Selbourne as a man of impeccable Labour views and claimed that the Association of University Teachers has made no representations on behalf of the lecturer, who is being oppressed by the authorities of his college.

Yard sees Asian to fight poll

Scotland Yard detectives searching for the missing gold from the £26 million Brinks Mat bullion robbery were last night questioning a senior London solicitor specializing in criminal cases (our Crime Reporter writes).

Police are still trying to trace the routes used to remove the gold after the raid on the high-security warehouse near Heathrow in November 1983.

The solicitor was expected to appear in court today as part of developments said to be very significant.

£1m for PC's appeal

Doctors at King's College Hospital, London, announced yesterday that a vital body scanner has been ordered following the remarkable success of a £1 million appeal (Thomas Prentice, Science Correspondent, writes).

The equipment, which will be installed early next year, will allow patients, including those suffering from cancer, to be diagnosed quickly and without the need for exploratory surgery.

The appeal was launched last year after the stabbing of PC George Hammond in south London. During his six-months in intensive care at the hospital, he was twice taken across London by ambulance to another hospital which had a scanner.

Geldof in food plan

Bob Geldof and Band Aid have joined negotiations for a world food conference next year to tackle a "lopsided" international farming crisis where some countries have huge food surpluses and others have shortages.

The proposal, by Sir Henry Plumb, the Conservative Euro-MP, will be put to Euro-MPs in Strasbourg next week.

Mr Geldof was in Dublin yesterday to receive a medal from the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization, presented by Dr Garret FitzGerald.

Unit for drug babies

A hospital is to set up the first special unit in Britain to cater for drug-addicted pregnant women and their babies (Craig Seton writes). The unit is to be established at All Saints Hospital in Birmingham for mothers whose babies are likely to be addicted when they are born.

The unit, financed by the West Midlands Health Authority and government grant, will carry out research and give psychiatric counselling for pregnant women who are drug addicts.

Amis is Booker tip

Kingsley Amis and Kazuo Ishiguro are the bookmakers' favourites to win the £15,000 Booker Prize next week for the year's best English language novel (Gavin Bell writes).

According to Ladbroke, Amis is leading the field of six finalists at odds of 2-1 with his novel set in Wales, *The Old Devils*. William Hill, however, favours Ishiguro at 3-1 with his assessment of Japan after the Second World War, *An Artist of the Floating World*.

Legislative decks clear for summer poll

By Richard Evans Political Correspondent
The Cabinet yesterday agreed on the legislative package for the forthcoming parliamentary session and thereby left the way clear for the Prime Minister to call a general election next summer. Next month's Queen's Speech is expected, with the exception of the Criminal Justice Bill, to contain few proposals for controversial and time-consuming pieces of legislation.

That will enable government business managers to clear the parliamentary decks by the end of July and to leave open all the options on election timing to Mrs Thatcher. The one surprise measure will be a coal Bill, to be introduced by Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, which will give the Union of Democratic Mineworkers the right to sit on national industrial committees dealing with welfare, conciliation and charity matters in the coal industry. Until now the UDM has been excluded from the committees by the rival National Union of Mineworkers. But the lightness of the parliamentary timetable is reflected by the absence of legislative proposals from leading Whitehall departments including agriculture, education and science, employment, the DHSS, Foreign Office and defence. Mr Douglas Hurd and his ministerial colleagues at the Home Office will have the busiest time in the next session. Apart from the wide-ranging criminal justice proposals, they will also bring to a Fire Safety and Safety at Sports Ground Bill. It will implement key proposals of the Poplewell inquiry into sports venues and amend fire safety regulations for industrial premises. The Criminal Justice Bill, which will run to well over 100 clauses, will include changes to the extradition law and reforms on the way fraud cases are investigated and prosecuted. Peremptory challenge of jurors will be abolished and the age limit for jurors will be increased. The criminal injuries compensation scheme will be placed on a statutory basis and there will be some redistribution of court business, with minor offences such as driving while disqualified being heard only in magistrates' courts.

Steel's do-or-die battle on defence

By Martin Fletcher Political Reporter
Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, is to lay his authority on the line next week in a do-or-die attempt to rally his party behind him on defence. He is gambling on bringing into line those rebel MPs who refused at the Eastbourne Assembly to back his quest for a European minimum nuclear deterrent, by downgrading the nature of that deterrent, by playing on the Alliance's disastrous post-Assembly performance in local elections, and the opinion polls, and by emphasizing the anger of the wider party outside the Assembly at what has happened. But the high-risk nature of his strategy will become evident today when *Liberal News* publishes a totally unrepentant article by Mr Michael Meadowcroft, MP for Leeds West, explaining why he voted against Mr Steel at Eastbourne. The article makes clear Mr Meadowcroft's resentment at having a policy foisted upon him by the party leadership without consultation. "All of us want a united party and Alliance. We are all prepared to go to great lengths to achieve unity. But if unity is gained by imposition rather than consent it is unlikely to survive scrutiny by opponents", he writes. At his Etrick Bridge home this weekend Mr Steel will meet Mr Simon Hughes, the rebel Liberal MP: Mr Des Wilson, the party president who abstained in the Eastbourne vote; and Mr Jim Wallace, the Liberal defence spokesman, in the hope of finding a mutually acceptable position. Mr Steel will on Tuesday present a paper outlining his views to the party's policy committee, and the next day he will meet the Liberal parliamentary party. His position - discussed with Dr David Owen, the Social Democratic Party leader - is that the party must have a firm commitment to retaining some sort of minimum nuclear deterrent as a fall-back should there be no breakthrough in world disarmament talks, and that European collaboration on defence is desirable.

Labour fight bar on MPs' role over immigration

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor
Mr Gerald Kaufman, the shadow Home Secretary, yesterday promised a furious dispute over the Government's plans to restrict MPs' rights to intervene in immigration cases.

MPs can now secure the temporary admission to Britain of passengers refused entry at air terminals and ports. Yesterday *The Times* reported that Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, will next week announce restrictions in relation to admissions from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Ghana and Nigeria, whose nationals now require visas for entry to Britain.

Mr Kaufman said: "I give notice to the Government that any proposal of theirs to remove or reduce the rights of Members of Parliament to intervene on behalf of their constituents in cases involving problems at ports of entry into Britain will be unacceptable to the Labour Party."

"The Home Secretary himself has said recently: 'There was, and is, no suggestion at all that a member should be denied the right to make representations either to me or to the Minister of State'. He described this right as 'a facility valued by the House'. MPs insist that the Home Secretary keeps his promise to Parliament."

Mr Kaufman said it was out of the question to make representations in immigration cases, but a constitutional matter affecting the rights of MPs to make effective representations to ministers.

The Home Office would say nothing yesterday to the Home Secretary's plans, save to confirm that any changes would affect MPs' rights only in respect of passengers from countries now requiring visas.

Ministers say that MPs' traditional rights are no longer required in these cases because the grounds for refusing entry to a passenger will no longer be a matter of an immigration officer's judgment - he will either have a visa or he will not. His eligibility will have been determined in his country of origin.

Airlines are to be strenuously reminded that they will have to foot the bill for returning would-be visitors to Britain who have been allowed to embark on flights here without the necessary visa.

As well as Mr Hurd's statement next week on the Government's introduction of visas, it is expected that there will be a full Commons debate.

Asian arrivals face police cells

Several hundred Asians waiting at Heathrow Airport to discover whether they will be allowed into Britain or sent home may be put into police cells to ease overcrowding at the terminal (David Cross writes).

The Home Office said yesterday that various options for housing the Asians were being considered, "including the increased use of police cells".

Most of the Asians have been kept in an area normally used for departing passengers or in hotels near by, and cells have been used sparingly since the latest rush sparked by the Government's controversial new visa system.

Lady Young, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, yesterday strenuously rejected Indian claims that the visas were racist. At Heathrow, airport officials held urgent consultations with health and immigration staff about the plight of 300 Bengalis crammed into a single room.

Long queues have formed at the British Embassy in Islamabad and at a consulate in Karachi, causing resentment (Michael Hamlyn writes).

A British visa now costs 320 Pakistani rupees (£12.80) for a single entry. In retaliation for the move, the Pakistanis are planning to introduce a visa regime for British visitors. Bangladesh also retaliated with an announcement yesterday that Britons would soon require visas to visit the country.

Bomb hoaxes lead to chaos in Belfast

A series of bomb hoaxes in Belfast yesterday produced some of the worst traffic jams the centre of the city has seen. The situation was made worse by the additional chaos created by traffic lights being out of action through Ulster's three-day-old power workers' strike.

Most disruption resulted from a suspect van being left outside British Telecom's provincial headquarters in Upper Queen Street while Mr Ian Vallance, BT's new chief executive, was on a visit from London.

The van had been hijacked and its driver forced to drive it to Dial House. The suspect van was blown up by the Army but contained no bomb.

Oxford rent strike in grant dispute

By Mark Dowd Education Reporter
Term is off at an unpromising start at Oxford where one of the university's colleges is on rent strike. Students at Hertford are refusing to pay their bachelors because they believe college authorities have reneged on agreements to make the next rise in accommodation costs proportional to the grant rise.

Mr Jeremy Thwaites, president of the Hertford Junior Common Room, said yesterday that accommodation charges for this year had been increased by 3.8 per cent, almost double the 2 per cent grant award.

Sir Geoffrey Warnock, principal of the college, said he thought the students' action was "understandable but regrettable". He defended the college's decision to impose the 3.8 per cent increase.

The difficulties appear to be rooted in the fact that although Sir Keith Joseph, the former Secretary of State for Education, initially announced a 2 per cent rise last December, his successor, Mr Kenneth Baker, increased the figure to almost 4 per cent in June for those students living away from home.

The purpose was to examine assertions that the beneficial effects of homeopathic treatments were induced by suggestion, or a case of mind over matter, rather than by the action of the microdose of the agent that the medicine is intended to combat.

Patients were given either a homeopathic preparation of mixed grass pollens or a placebo. The improvement of those given subtoxic levels of the pollen mixture was reflected in the reduced need for their normal antihistamine therapy to alleviate their hay fever.

The doctors report that there are few well-controlled human trials for establishing the effectiveness of homeopathic substances by comparing treatments against a placebo.



Mr John Watson, a colliery overman, checks his lamp before going down the new mine.

£57m pit opens in Scotland UDM chief proud and bitter at end

By Keith Hindley
British Coal yesterday officially opened Scotland's first new pit for more than twenty years.

The Castlehill colliery, three miles east of Alloa, cost £57 million and taps into the rich seams of coal underlying 40 square miles of the Forth Basin.

The new pit will provide a much more effective way for the British Coal workforce to reach their coalfaces. Previously they had to travel several miles underground from the Solsburgh and Castlehill shafts.

Now, by using modern underground trains from the new shaft, the men can work productively for two hours longer on every shift.

This mining complex is the largest in Scotland and one of the most productive in Britain. The miners have already reached 5.7 tonnes of coal per man shift and have occasionally peaked at 7 tonnes. The new complex will yield 2.2 million tonnes of low sulphur coal annually, which will go direct to the furnaces of the huge Longannet power station.

This massive new investment in the area has been welcomed by the unions. The complex employs 500 men but that will rise to 900 as underground working reaches its peak.

The man who came from nowhere and broke Arthur Scargill's hold on union power in the coalfields is today both proud and bitter as he prepares to relinquish his position as general secretary of the Union of Democratic Mineworkers.

A year ago, Mr Scargill, who inherited a mighty brotherhood which had brought a Conservative government to its knees, learnt that his strategists had divided the union as never before.

Mr Roy Lynk, who had been a little-known official in the National Union of Mineworkers, had masterminded a campaign which culminated in a three-to-one vote for establishing another union for microworkers.

The issue was simple, miners in the Nottinghamshire coalfield had refused to join the bitter pit strike because Mr Scargill and the rest of the NUM leadership would not allow their members to vote on the issue.

They were joined by 3,000 south Derbyshire miners and 2,000 Durham mechanics who also voted at pit-head ballots to reject what they believed was an undemocratic strike.

For Mr Lynk, the die had been cast six months before the ballot when he confronted Mr Scargill at the NUM area headquarters in Mansfield. Mr Scargill offered to withdraw his flying pickets from the besieged Nottinghamshire coalfield if the union agreed to join the strike without holding a ballot. Mr Lynk refused the offer.

Now, the UDM has established its own headquarters at the village of Bestwood, Nottinghamshire, and in August was recognised in law when it was granted a certificate of independence as a trade union.

But in spite of that, it is ostracized within trade union circles and has been snubbed by the Labour Party.

For its part, the UDM has said there is no hope of a reconciliation while Mr Scargill and other militants remain in control of the NUM's hierarchy.

In spite of its success in getting British Coal to grant it conciliation rights, thereby acknowledging the reality of two unions, Mr Lynk is bitter with the way his union is treated by the employers.

In particular, he accuses Sir Robert Haslam, the new chairman of shielding Mr Scargill by preventing the UDM from negotiating pay and conditions in coalfield areas where it is in a minority.

Mr Lynk said: "I think what we have done is to achieve the impossible. We have proved that if you deny democracy to the members then you will not survive."

"But I am bitter at the attitude of British Coal."

Health posts are being paid by teaching funds

Overstretched teaching authorities are having to pay for academic medical posts in order to avoid cuts in patient services, health authorities said yesterday. A report published by the National Association of Health Authorities says that teaching authorities, already facing cuts in health service resources, now face the double penalty of University Grants Committee cuts resulting in the loss of 317 clinical posts, the equivalent of a whole medical school, between 1981 and 1984. Unless medical posts are protected, further planned cuts of 1 per cent a year will put teaching authorities under unacceptable strains and will threaten the future quality of medical education and research, the report says. It has called for concerted action between the Department of Education and Science and the Department of Health and Social Security.

Some ferry crews still protesting

The crews of strike-hit Channel Island ferries were continuing their protest last night in spite of the settlement of the fortnight-old dispute. The 60 crew of the 4,000-ton ferry, Earl Godwin, at Weymouth, were standing firm against Sealink's latest offer. They say it does not save enough of their jobs. And the crew on board the Earl William, immobilized in Guernsey, are continuing their action until further notice. The crews of the Earl Godwin and the Earl William, as well as seamen from Portsmouth and Cherbourg are due to attend a mass meeting at Southampton today. A spokesman for the men occupying the Earl William at St Peter's Port, Guernsey, said that moving the ship would be impossible without the agreement of officers who are also in dispute with Sealink. Two thirds of the 316 National Union of Seamen jobs threatened by the Sealink-Channel Island Ferries merger scheme which started the dispute have been saved under the new terms agreed. For those who will lose their jobs the redundancy terms are: up to one year employed £4,311; one to two years, £5,037; more than two years £1,200 for each year to a maximum £30,000.

Court bid for Taylor file fails

Mr Kevin Taylor, the businessman at the centre of the John Stalker affair, failed in his High Court attempt yesterday to force the police to hand over internal documents which he hoped would clear his name.

Mr Justice Scott said: "It would be absurd to order handing over of documents at a time when a definitive decision as to a prosecution is imminent."

Mr Taylor, aged 54, who has launched a private prosecution against Mr James Anderson, Chief Constable of Greater Manchester, alleging conspiracy to pervert the course of justice, must also pay the costs of the two-day hearing.

He wanted access to the documents used to obtain a search warrant against him and claimed the 21-month investigation into his affairs has had a "devastating" effect on his business and turned him into a "pariah and leper" in local society.

His counsel, Mr Robin de Wilde, said: "The search warrants obtained by the police were used as a smoke screen for the Stalker inquiry. Unattractive as it is, bad faith and malice were used in the obtaining of these warrants."

The judge agreed with the Greater Manchester Police Authority, however, that the information was covered by public interest immunity. He could not find that there had been such excessive delay that the immunity had been lost.

He had been informed that papers had now been put before the Director of Public Prosecutions and a decision as to whether to prosecute would be forthcoming quite soon.

Mr Taylor, who was not in court for the verdict, claimed he needed the documents to see whether there was a case against the police for abuse of power, trespass to land and property, and abuse of the process of law.

In a separate, but parallel, action, Mr Taylor has obtained summonses against Mr Anderson and two senior police officers, alleging conspiracy to pervert the course of justice by causing false information to be laid before magistrates on May 7 when the search warrants were obtained.

By the way, the Times yesterday reported that the UDM had been recognised in law when it was granted a certificate of independence as a trade union.

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FINANCIAL INSTITUTE DEMANDS COMPLETE DISPOSAL AUCTIONS OF HUGE INVENTORY VALUABLE PERSIAN & ORIENTAL RUGS Being merchandise appropriated by Financial House Hamilton Somerset (London) Ltd to secure their position against a well known trader now in default. Because of the magnitude of pieces involved, goods have been divided into three separate auctions which will be held on SUNDAY 19th OCTOBER in three sessions Viewing one hour prior to sale time. RICHMOND HILL HOTEL, RICHMOND, SURREY. Sale at 11am. OATLANDS PARK HOTEL, OATLANDS DRIVE, WEYBRIDGE, SURREY. Sale at 11.30am. HILTON INTERNATIONAL HOTEL, KENSINGTON, HOLLAND PARK AVENUE, LONDON W11. Sale at 3.00pm. Under the supervision of A. WELLESLEY BRISCOE & PARTNERS LTD, 144/146 NEW BOND STREET, LONDON W1. TEL 01-483 4573. PAYMENT: CASH, CHEQUE, OR ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS.

Homeopathy testing time By Pearce Wright, Science Editor The closest demonstration to a scientific proof for homeopathic medicine comes with the results of an experiment published in today's issue of *The Lancet*. It comes in the wake of a trial involving 144 people who suffered from hay fever, and were treated at clinics of the Glasgow and Royal London Homeopathic hospitals and by 26 National Health Service family doctors. The purpose was to examine assertions that the beneficial effects of homeopathic treatments were induced by suggestion, or a case of mind over matter, rather than by the action of the microdose of the agent that the medicine is intended to combat. Patients were given either a homeopathic preparation of mixed grass pollens or a placebo. The improvement of those given subtoxic levels of the pollen mixture was reflected in the reduced need for their normal antihistamine therapy to alleviate their hay fever. The doctors report that there are few well-controlled human trials for establishing the effectiveness of homeopathic substances by comparing treatments against a placebo.

Rare exan

'Sister was locked in a 'curtain of evil' and wanted to be with God' I didn't murder family, insists Bamber

By Michael Horsnell

Jeremy Bamber yesterday denied murdering his family and said he had a "loving" relationship with his parents. He told a hushed courtroom at Chelmsford Crown Court that his step-sister Sheila Caffell was a paranoid schizophrenic who wanted to go to heaven and take people with her.

Mrs Sheila "Bambi" Caffell, the former London model originally suspected by police of the White House Farm massacre in Essex, was the subject of numerous accusations as the defence opened its case.

Mr Bamber, aged 25, denies murdering his adoptive parents Neville and June Bamber, both aged 61, Mrs Caffell and her twin sons Nicholas and Daniel.

He said his sister contemplated suicide several times

● **Sheila wanted to take people with her to heaven and she wanted to save the world**

and was physically violent to the twins.

He added: "She wanted to go to heaven. She wanted to take people with her and she wanted to save the world."

He said there was no animosity between him and his sister but he found it difficult to cope with her bizarre behaviour in which she allegedly said alternately that she was Joan of Arc, God and the Virgin Mary and that she wanted to lead the campaign for nuclear disarmament.

Under cross-examination he denied the suggestion that he used as a cover for his own crime Sheila's mental illness and the credibility attached to the theory that she could have carried out the murders and kill herself.

When Mr Bamber was called to the witness box he answered "No" as Mr Rivlin asked if he had murdered the five members of his family.

Sipping wine frequently and speaking so quietly that he had often to be asked to raise his voice so the jury could hear, he denied he had ever told his uncle, as the prosecution has alleged, that he could easily kill his parents.

He told the jury that he had

a "loving" relationship with his parents, though he added that there had been a lack of understanding between himself and his mother.

Sometimes it had not been easy to cope with his mother's interest in religion.

Describing his relations with his girl friend Miss Julie Mugford, aged 22, a teacher, he said that for a year things went well and that marriage had been discussed but that their relationship deteriorated after Christmas 1984.

Bamber told the jury on the eleventh day of his trial that his relationship with Miss Mugford was "completely finished" early in September 1985 - four weeks after the murders - and that he knew she had gone to the police to make allegations against him.

He agreed that on September 8, after his initial arrest, he nevertheless sent her a love note in which he expressed regret for their parting.

He told the court: "I had been told by the police about the allegations Julie was making against me and I believed she was doing that out of spite because of splitting up. I wrote the note believing she would take everything back."

He accused her of lying constantly to the police in making allegations against him.

On the night of the massacre he said he watched television and telephoned Miss Mugford though he denied saying to her, as the prosecution has alleged, "tonight is the night" for killing his parents.

In the early hours he said, he was awoken by a telephone call from his father saying "come quickly, Sheila has gone crazy. She's got a gun".

Mr Bamber, who said he had no chance to speak himself, tried to phone his father back when the line went dead but got an engaged tone. He telephoned the police at Chelmsford to report the call before telephoning his girlfriend.

Asked why he did not ring 999 Bamber said: "It never entered my head."

Asked why he telephoned his girl friend Mr Bamber said: "I was very worried. The police didn't seem very interested. I telephoned her because I needed a friendly ear." "I told her that there was trouble at the farm and I remember she was talking as if

she thought the whole thing was a practical joke."

He denied saying that "things were going well", as the prosecution has alleged.

Outside his parents' home, where police waited for more than three hours before breaking in because they thought an intruder might still be in the farmhouse, he told officers about his sister's mental illness.

Mr Bamber, who drew up plans of the farmhouse to help the police, said "Within my own self I was frightened. I wanted to know what had gone on."

He said: "I don't think they understood the extent of Sheila's illness and I was trying to convince them that she was very unpredictable. They asked me if she had used guns. I was trying to tell them there were lots of guns in the house and that she could have used any of them."

He recalled drinking a whisky offered to him by a doctor and of wrenching after being told later of the mass murders.

Mr Bamber said that White House Farm was insecure and that often when a key had not been left in its proper place he had entered through various windows after using blades and other implements to slip the catch, though he denied knowing that the catch would automatically shut from the outside.

Bamber described his sister's propensity to violence and told the jury of one instance in which Sheila had allegedly, during a car journey, punched one of the twins in the face with her full fist. He said: "What she did to the children was over and above severe reprimand when I was present but we in the family never told anybody about it."

He also recounted an occasion when his father had been kept on the telephone all night

● **Sometimes I believed what had gone on and sometimes I didn't**

by Sheila who was claiming to be the Virgin Mary. Mr Bamber agreed that the morning after the murders he had bought copies of several newspapers when he went to buy some milk with his girlfriend.



Mr Jeremy Bamber: spent five hours in the witness box.

He also told the jury that at his home hours after the murders Detective Sergeant Stanley Jones had asked for a drink and then with other officers swallowed half a bottle of brandy before driving off.

Mr Bamber said: "I was in a state of shock, sometimes I believed what had gone on and sometimes I didn't."

He agreed that he had given permission to the police hours after the murders to destroy blood-stained soft furnishings but said it was at the suggestion of the police.

Mr Bamber denied telling his girl friend when she arrived from London the morning after the murders that, as

the prosecution has alleged, he chuckled and said he should have been an actor.

He agreed that he had collected valuable items from the farmhouse including silver, china, paintings and guns but said that it was to raise money to pay death duties.

Mr Bamber said that when Miss Mugford overheard a telephone call from a woman friend, Virginia Graves, she became jealous and violent, and smashed a mirror.

He admitted having seen drafts of his parents' will some years ago in which their estate was to be shared between himself and his sister.

But he told Mr Anthony Arledge, QC, under cross-examination that he did not

know his father's will tied him to work on the farm until his father's death.

Earlier Mr Geoffrey Rivlin, QC, for the defence, went on to describe the evidence given by Miss Mugford, who allegedly betrayed Mr Bamber to police four weeks after the murders, as "demonstrably unreliable and unacceptable".

He said he would produce witnesses who would paint a picture of Mr Bamber different to the one which had

● **Sheila thought her sons wanted to seduce her and were capable of murdering her**

been presented by the prosecution and that he would be calling Sheila's psychiatrist, Dr Ferguson.

He said that Sheila, aged 27, had spoken to a friend about killing herself on more than one occasion and was seriously mentally ill with overt "psychotic symptoms".

Mr Rivlin said that the former London model suffered from delusions and hallucinations including morbid ideas about the devil.

He said: "In particular I'm talking about her thinking of sex with the children, or doing violence to them or suffering violence at their hands."

Mr Rivlin said that Sheila thought her sons wanted to seduce her and were capable of murdering her.

Locked in what Mr Rivlin called her "curtain of evil" she developed delusions of grandeur and persecution and by March 1985 - only four months before the murders - she was suffering bizarre religious and paranoid ideas.

Mr Freddie Fahad Hamami, her boy friend, was by this stage frightened for his safety and hers.

Mr Rivlin said that Miss Helen Grimstead, a cousin of Sheila's, would recall a conversation in which Sheila asked if she had ever thought of killing herself and then saying that she had herself contemplated suicide.

Mr Rivlin said that near the end of her life, Sheila regarded herself as a white witch whose task in life was to rid the world of evil.

The trial continues today.

Customs team set to seize drug gains

Michael Evans Whitehall Correspondent

A team of 35 customs officers has been set up to track down the assets of convicted drug traffickers to enable courts to make confiscation orders when a new law is implemented in the next few months, it was disclosed yesterday.

The customs men, who are being trained as financial intelligence officers, have already carried out several dummy runs. All of them have had experience of value-added tax investigations and are experts in banking and accounting procedures.

The customs asset-strippers will have sweeping powers of investigation when all the clauses in the Drug Trafficking Offences Act are enforced by January 1. They will be able to gain access to bank accounts and inland revenue files as well as seek seizure orders on possessions.

Customs sources admit that the powers are draconian, but there is some concern that the drug barons will still be able to launder their assets via countries with corrupt systems, where the authorities might not be helpful.

But in this country, banks for the first time will be required to give information on customers they suspect of moving funds connected with drug smuggling.

It is hoped that eventually there will be an international link-up to help trace laundered assets from one country to another, but customs sources yesterday said it was unlikely to come into effect for at least five years.

As part of the Government's campaign on drugs, new efforts are also being made to encourage the Armed Forces to play their part in keeping a look-out for possible drug trafficking.

Sources said that RAF pilots and crews engaged in training flights over the Channel, particularly in the south-west, have been asked to pass on any information about large yachts seen far from the coast.

It was also disclosed yesterday that since April, when customs introduced a Freephone drugs service for members of the public to ring up about suspicious incidents, more than 1,000 calls have been received.

Portfolio Gold - Holidays boost for winners

A retired company director, a housewife, an electrical engineer and a cleaner claimed the £4,000 Portfolio Gold prize yesterday.

Mr David Frost, aged 75, of Bromley Common, Kent, has played Portfolio Gold since it started in *The Times*.

He will spend his prize share on "a little holiday" and repairs to the family home.

Mrs Olive Evans, aged 41, a mother of three, of Loxwood, West Sussex, has played Portfolio Gold for six months. "I still can't believe my luck."

She too intends spending some of the money on a holiday. Mr Ramen Bhattacharya, aged 50, an electrical engineer, of south-west London, will put his prize towards taking his family to visit his parents in India.

Mrs Dorothy Halesworth, aged 43, of Stheringham, Norfolk, who works as a cleaner in a club, said she also was excited about her win.

Portfolio Gold cards are available by sending a stamped addressed envelope to: Portfolio Gold, *The Times*, PO Box 40, Blackburn, BB1 6AJ.

Mr David Frost, looking forward to a break.



Mrs Olive Evans, surprised at "unbelievable luck".



Mr David Frost, looking forward to a break.

Sotheby's clock in fake claim

By Geraldine Norman Sale Room Correspondent

One of the first pendulum clocks was said to be a fake after it was bought for the nation at Sotheby's yesterday.

Mr Terence Cameron Cass, a London clock dealer, jumped to his feet and cried, "Fake" when it was sold for £121,000 to R A Lee, the oldest-established clock dealer, for the Science Museum, South Kensington, west London.

However, Dr D Vaughan, the museum's curator of clocks, dismissed the allegation. He said mystery surrounding the origins of the hitherto unknown clock had made dealers suspicious.

Sotheby's said it had come from the Continent and was in a family collection for at least two generations. While it was surprising for a clock of this importance to turn up unexpectedly, it was too unusual to be a copy.

Christopher Huygens, the Dutch inventor, is credited with building the first workable pendulum clock in 1656. The Sotheby's clock, signed by Huygens as inventor and Jan van Cal, of Nijmegen, as maker, is dated 1657.

The spring-driven clocks of Salomon Coster were previously thought to be the earliest pendulum clocks in existence. Sotheby's clock is weight-driven.

Sale room, page 18

Jordanian names 'enemies'

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter.

A Jordanian accused of trying to blow up an El Al airliner with 375 people on board told the Central Criminal Court yesterday the Israelis were his enemies but not their civilians, women or children.

Nezar Hindawi, aged 34, a journalist, of no fixed address, is alleged to have tried to use his pregnant girl friend as a human timebomb on a Boeing 747 bound for Tel Aviv from Heathrow Airport last April.

After five hours of giving evidence in his defence, Mr Hindawi faced cross-examination by the crown. He denied visiting Tripoli, the Libyan capital, last year with three other Arabs, including a brother.

He agreed with Mr Roy Amlot, for the prosecution, that the Israelis were his enemies. Mr Amlot said: "Does that mean civilians as well as soldiers?" Mr Hindawi said it did not. Nor did it mean women and children. Only soldiers were his enemies.

Earlier in the case, Mr Hindawi was accused of giving his girl friend, Miss Ann Murphy, aged 32, a bag which was found to have explosives in a secret compartment. It was alleged a calculator he put in the bag on the way to Heathrow contained a timer and detonator.

Earlier this week, Mr Hindawi told the court he thought he had been recruited

Human bomb trial

for drug smuggling and Miss Murphy was an unwitting courier. He knew nothing of any bomb.

Yesterday Mr Amlot asked why Mr Hindawi put a battery in the calculator, which armed it, on the way to the airport. Mr Hindawi said he did not know anything about arming a bomb, and believed the calculator would fool X-ray machines used for finding drugs.

He told the court there was no reason why he had not put the battery in the calculator earlier.

Mr Hindawi said he was given the calculator and the bag containing drugs through a man called Khalid Dandesh whom he had met in Syria. He believed the calculator would neutralize an X-ray machine and dismissed Mr Amlot's suggestion that this was nonsense.

The Jordanian told the court he understood "the calculator will produce rays itself from the top part and at the same time it is going through the X-ray machines".

The rays from the calculator would prevent the man watching the X-ray machine reading anything. A green light showing the luggage was all right would appear on the X-ray machine.

Mr Amlot questioned Mr Hindawi about the use of El Al for carrying drugs when the airline was noted for its security arrangements. He said he did not ask his drug

recruiter about the arrangements which they suggested. Mr Amlot asked him why he had chosen Miss Murphy. Mr Hindawi said: "She trusted me and I trust her."

During cross-examination Mr Hindawi was shown the bag in which the bomb was found. He told Mr Amlot it was the same design as the one he gave Miss Murphy but he said it was a different colour.

Asked if he had looked in the bottom of the bag where he said he thought drugs were hidden before he gave it to his girl friend he said he did not. He looked in the bag but nothing else. He said: "If I had done so I would have disturbed the secure storage."

Earlier in the day towards the end of his evidence, Mr Hindawi told the court the police had threatened him and his family. One night in his cell he was told his mother and father had been arrested and brought to the police station.

Mr Hindawi said he was told by a detective that Mossad, the Israeli secret service, had been asking for him, and so had the Israeli government.

He told the court he had never admitted any knowledge of a bomb nor did he ever know anything about a bomb. He had never heard any statements read out by the police during his interviews with them in which he admitted knowledge of a bomb.

The hearing continues today.

TV exhibition Rare example of Baird set

By Jonathan Miller

The exhibits include a rare example of Mr Baird's first mechanical television set, which used a revolving drum to project a three-inch image made up of 30 scanning lines.

When it was new the set sold for £26.5s. Earlier this year, a similar receiver sold at Christie's for £2,400.

After Mr Baird demonstrated his invention to members of the Royal Institution in January 1926, *The Times* cautiously reported that "it remains to be seen to what extent further developments will carry Mr Baird's system to practical use".

The scepticism was deserved in one respect: by 1936 Mr Baird's technical approach to television had been made obsolete. An all-electronic system developed by Marconi and

EMI had been introduced which offered much greater clarity of reception.

By the end of 1936 400 homes in the London area had television sets.

By the time Queen Elizabeth was crowned in 1953, almost three million sets had been sold.

Television technology changed again in the 1960s when 405-line black and white began to be phased out and was replaced by 625-line colour transmission.

Mr Jonathan Miller, who organized the exhibition, said old television sets were growing in value to collectors. He said that the exhibition was likely to further increase interest.

The exhibition runs until November 2.

BBC in talks on European cable network

The BBC hopes its two television channels will become available to millions of cable television subscribers and hotel rooms in Scandinavia, Germany and Italy (Our Media Correspondent writes).

If talks are successful, the BBC would gain significant revenues at a time when it is under pressure to wean itself from licence fee income.

BBC-1 and BBC-2 are already available to cable subscribers in Belgium, Holland and Paris, but they are transmitted using a microwave link that limits the number of areas able to receive signals.

The BBC has just conducted tests of satellite transmission that would make it possible to distribute its channels across Europe to an unlimited number of cable systems.

The bigger bang

Everyone is talking about the Big Bang which hits the City this month. But does it really explain the huge expansion of London's financial wealth?

What, in reality, is the one area of economic activity in which Britain leads the world?

In this week's Spectator, Tim Congdon explains the nature of the Bigger Bang—the explosion of the Euromarkets in which London is pre-eminent. With a turnover more than twice that of the Stock Exchange, they make the Big Bang sound like a whimper.

At present, there are 399 foreign banks in London, 254 in New York and only 76 in Tokyo. How did London win this lead? And can it keep it? Or will a Labour government send the City the way of Lancashire textiles and Midland cars?

As usual, this week's Spectator explodes with talent. Alastair Forbes reviews Patrick Leigh Fermor's leisurely progress to Byzantium. The Bishop of London looks at the crisis in his own Church. Jeffrey Bernard gives his weekly *cri de coeur* from the public bar of the Coach and Horses. And in a contrite Diary, Peregrine Worsthorne tries to make peace with Princess Michael of Kent. All this is yours for just a sovereign.

THE SPECTATOR

Ports fear big job losses and closures from Channel tunnel

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

The Channel tunnel would have a devastating impact on ports throughout Britain, causing huge job losses and in some cases complete closures, the British Ports Association said yesterday.

To evidence to the select committee examining the Channel Tunnel Bill, the association, which represents all Britain's big ports, demanded drastic amendments to ensure competition between the ports and the tunnel was fair.

Mr Nicholas Finney, the association's director, called for: ● Protection against predatory pricing by the tunnel operators to drive ferries out of business before raising their own fares again.

● The abolition of "light dues", the tax amounting to as much as £20,000 which ships pay when docking in British ports to finance navigational aids, including lighthouses.

● Upgrading of the "completely inadequate" customs services at British ports. ● Independent investigation to stop British Rail curtailing port rail infrastructure

projects and seeking to gain a larger share of container traffic by favouring the tunnel.

● Measures to ensure roads to ports are no worse than those to the tunnel.

● Safety regulations for the tunnel as stringent as those for ports and ferries.

● No public subsidies for the tunnel.

Mr Finney claimed that if the tunnel attracted only 30 per cent of existing traffic from the ports of London, Kent, Sussex and Hampshire that would equal the entire 1985 traffic through the ports of Medway, Ramsgate, Folkestone, Newhaven, Portsmouth and Southampton.

That would threaten 4,000 direct jobs and 40,000 ancillary jobs, he said.

He added that the tunnel would have an equally severe effect on the ports of the North and West, attracting their deep sea container traffic.

Ports would undoubtedly close, with serious defence implications and dangers of severe disruption given the tunnel's vulnerability to industrial action and terrorist attack, he claimed.

Missing file holds no secrets says MoD

By Nicholas Beeson

The Ministry of Defence yesterday denied that security had been breached at a top secret American air base in Cambridgeshire, after the loss and publication of a blueprint for construction work at the site.

The file was found in March by two CND supporters in woodland outside RAF Alconbury, which is believed to house a squadron of high altitude TR-1 spy planes.

The document, which is three-feet long, shows plans for construction work at the north-east section, including the position of aircraft hangars, taxi-ways and parking aprons.

Although it does not identify the type of aircraft stored in the hangars all buildings and runways are clearly marked to scale.

RAF Alconbury is also intended as a support base for the cruise missile installation at Molesworth.

The plan was published in the *Cambridge Evening News* on Wednesday, but a spokesman for the Ministry of Defence said the blueprint was unclassified.

"There is no information that could not be gained by looking through the fence," the spokesman, who described the disclosure as a "storm in a tea cup", said.



The Rev Albert Humphrey, aged 100, who thinks he may be Britain's oldest driver, with the Mini he still uses regularly. Mr Humphrey of Stretcholt, near Bridgwater, Somerset, recently completed a six-hour 240-mile round trip to Chichester, Sussex.

Prosecution withdraws 'sex for job' charge

The man accused of duping Miss Sarah Lambert, a secretary, had a charge against him of procuring sexual intercourse dropped yesterday.

The prosecution withdrew the allegation when Joseph Hanson, aged 41, appeared at Ealing Magistrates' Court in west London. The charge alleged that Mr Hanson "procured sexual intercourse with him by falsely pretending to be Robert Simmons, the managing director of a property development agency offering employment to Miss Lambert at a salary of £12,000 plus a car and clothing allowance".

Mr Hanson, of Garretts Lane, Wandsworth, south-west London, still faces three charges of obtaining money by deception from Miss Lambert and three of obtaining money and services by deception from hotels and a car-hire firm.

Three of the charges relate to four days in August when a nationwide police hunt was launched for Miss Lambert, aged 25. Mr Hanson was committed to custody to Isleworth Crown Court in west London for trial on the remaining charges on a date to be fixed.

Currie's warning to victims of Aids

By Jill Sherman

People infected with the Aids virus should abstain from sexual intercourse, Mrs Edwina Currie, the junior health minister, says.

"This is a life sentence, not a death sentence" Mrs Currie said yesterday on the *Jimmy Young* programme on BBC Radio 2.

Present advice from the Department of Health warns people at high risk of getting the disease to adopt safer sexual practices such as using condoms.

Mrs Currie confirmed that ministers were discussing a new advertising campaign, including proposals to send leaflets warning of the dangers of contracting Aids and giving advice on how to prevent the spread of the disease, to every home in the country.

She emphasized that it was important to give people the facts about Aids (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) even if it meant giving offence.

Her remarks came after reports that the Prime Minister has been reluctant to endorse the leaflet because of its explicit language about sexual practices.

The leaflets are expected to be complemented by a television campaign warning people what to expect.

Mrs Currie said that separate information should be directed at high risk groups such as homosexuals and drug addicts, who represented a more immediate problem.

She also emphasized that people should be aware that Aids was a heterosexual disease and that a pregnant woman with the virus could pass it on to her child.

Services for pregnant women are going to be part of the junior minister's new responsibilities, together with services for breast cancer and cervical cancer.

Pre-empting the official announcement of her portfolio yesterday afternoon, Mrs Currie said that for the first time all aspects of women's health would be co-ordinated under one minister. She emphasized the importance of pulling together different aspects of both preventive and acute care to improve services for women.

"For example breast cancer screening can be done at the same time as cervical cancer screening," she said.

Retailers use young 'as cheap labour'

By Angella Johnson

School leavers are being used as cheap labour by many retailers and wholesalers, who do not provide proper training, a report published yesterday claims.

The Distributive Trades Economic Development Committee is calling for widespread support of the two-year Youth Training Scheme and greater in-house training.

Its report says too little provision is made for formal or systematic training of the 70,000 youngsters entering the industry each year.

"What training there is falls short of the young person's wider needs because it is focused on teaching very narrow skills specific to a particular section of the distribution industry," Mr Mike Grindrod, chairman of the committee's Youth Training Group, said.

"For many young people the distributive trades are a first job opportunity, therefore we have a responsibility to ensure they receive a much more broadly based training to move from one section to another."

Mr Grindrod praised the training carried out in banking and the travel trade industry, where he said the level of expertise for sales staff and managers means they can provide a much better service than many retailing firms.

He said more retailers should use the YTS programme to put added emphasis on foundation skills.

"I know some employers regard YTS as a kind of cheap labour, but it is time our industry got its act together and used it effectively."

The report also calls for big changes in the way schools and colleges prepare youngsters for work in the distributive trades.

It says educational establishments should aim to improve the level of practical experience students receive before going out to work.

The report also recommends that national co-ordinating bodies be set up for the four main sections of the industry - retailing, mail order, wholesaling and physical distribution. These would include representatives of trade unions, education establishments, employers and the Government and would decide how to arrange training.

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PARLIAMENT OCTOBER 16 1986

Minister promises necessary action on library ban

WAPPING DISPUTE

The Government promised in the House of Lords that any necessary action against local authorities over the banning of News International newspapers would be taken quickly, depending on the outcome of a case in the High Court. Lord Belstead, Deputy Leader of the Lords, told Lord Harris of Greenwich (SDP): "If, after the judgment of the High Court, it is thought to be necessary by the Minister for the Arts (Mr Richard Luce) to act, he will act quickly."

Lord Harris had asked what further action the Government proposed to take against local authorities which had withdrawn the newspapers, including *The Times*, from libraries following the company's dispute with printing trade unions. The case, on which judgment was reserved in the High Court last Friday, involves a challenge by News International to the ban imposed by three Labour-controlled London authorities, Camden, Ealing and Hammersmith and Fulham councils after 5,500 News International employees went on strike in January and were dismissed. It is likely to be a test case for other councils which have barred News International publications. Lord Belstead said the arts minister considered it totally unacceptable for library authorities to withdraw these newspapers and had written to the authorities to tell them they might be contravening the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964 and should review their decisions. Lord Harris said that the answer was not altogether satisfactory. What Lord Belstead had said about the arts minister's view

Airports bus link working

The Government was prepared to look again at the need for a scheduled helicopter service between Gatwick and Heathrow airports if the matter came before it. Viscount Davidson, a Government spokesman, said during question time in the House of Lords. He added that the present coach links seemed to provide a satisfactory service. Lord Boyd-Carpenter (C) suggested that a helicopter service should fly at a higher altitude. Viscount Davidson said that since the helicopter service ended 98.5 per cent of surface links arrived at their destinations within 10 minutes of their scheduled time.

Next week

The main business in the House of Commons next week will be: Tuesday: Education Bill, conclusion of remaining stages. Wednesday: Sex Discrimination Bill, progress on remaining stages. Thursday: Sex Discrimination Bill, completion of remaining stages. Friday: Public Trustee and Administrators of Funds Bill, remaining stages. The main business in the House of Lords will be: Monday: Financial Services Bill, report stage. Tuesday: Public Order Bill, report stage. Wednesday: Housing and Planning Bill, report stage. Thursday: Public Order Bill, report stage.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including "plan to legal ad", "accident v", "ut off" by, "Prosecutor service criticized", and "Probation p".

Solicitors are angry at plan to transfer free legal advice scheme

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Radical proposals being studied by the Government to overhaul the legal aid scheme could lead to a national legal service, Mr John Wickerson, president of the Law Society, said yesterday.

He told solicitors at their annual conference in Torquay that the officials who have produced such proposals "may have no concept of the damage they are doing".

One of the key proposals from the Treasury-led scrutiny team of officials is that solicitors give up the job of providing free legal advice to the public in almost all but criminal cases.

Instead that advice should be provided by advice agencies such as citizens' advice bureaux and law centres, they say.

"Can you imagine the outcry there would be from the public if it was suggested that those in the National Health Service could only see a doctor if a chemist or chemist's assistant thought it appropriate for them to do so?"

Would-be clients might have to travel 25 miles to the nearest bureau with an easy public transport and on help with fares, Mr Wickerson said.

If the advice worker then thought it necessary for a solicitor to help the client, he

would "be able to tell his story all over again to the solicitor".

Mr Wickerson gave a warning that the new scheme at the end of the day would cost more money and forfeit the goodwill of the profession which was geared to providing that advice.

The proposal had been widely criticized, he said, even by the advice agencies where it was seen for what it was: "an attempt to save money with no regard to the public good."

The profession may in future be "less inclined or unable to provide the unpaid assistance that it now gives," he said.

The scrutiny team is also proposing that only specialist solicitors be allowed to provide free legal representation.

"Can you imagine the views of the doctor who is told that as a GP he is incapable of deciding what the patient's problem is and that... to do so he will have to become a specialist but of course continue to be paid as a GP?"

There is already a "broadly satisfactory" network of general practitioners providing legal advice in the community, obtaining expert advice elsewhere when they need it, he said.

Mr Wickerson, the first "high street" solicitor to become president of the society,

said he hoped the officials did not intend to reduce the help that a large part of the profession gave to the disadvantaged.

Lack of proper funding and failure to take on the profession's proposal for reform had reduced the service and "caused the public and practitioners much anger".

It was intolerable that those who needed urgent help should have to wait months for legal aid certificates and that solicitors should have to wait months for their "inadequate" fees, he said.

Mr Wickerson tackled two other controversial issues: that of mixed partnerships between solicitors and other professionals which has recently been recommended by Sir Gordon Borrie, the director general of the Office of Fair Trading; and that of fusion between the profession's two branches.

On the latter he made a conciliatory and conservative statement: "I believe that the public interest is that we should have a strong and independent Bar."

Proposals "for changes in training, rights of audience or direct access which might of themselves seem attractive, but which seriously endanger the independent Bar will not get my vote."

Lord Ackner said that the shortest route from Shirley's home to Stanway Comprehensive School was 106 yards short of the qualifying three-



An historic Comet aircraft returning home to RAF Lyneham, Wiltshire, yesterday after a last-minute reprieve from the scrapyard. It was saved by the base's commander, Group Captain David Edwards, who has arranged for it to be refurbished as a gate guard. The airliner was taken out of service in 1967 and sent to the RAF museum at Hendon.

JPs reject the short, sharp shock idea

By Peter Evans Home Affairs Correspondent

Magistrates are rejecting "short, sharp shocks" for young people in favour of "last chance" alternatives that keep them at home.

Basingstoke juvenile magistrates have not used custody for more than 15 months; there were reductions of 70 per cent and 32 per cent in Southend and Lewisham respectively.

The figures were given yesterday by the Rainer Foundation, the national young people's charity. An open day at Well Hall, Greenwich, yesterday, disclosed there has been a 50 per cent drop in young people from the borough sentenced to custody since it opened.

Well Hall has worked with more than 80 young people, aged 14-17, during the past three years. They face a four-month intensive programme of up to 12 hours a week.

The foundation says that before Well Hall opened, magistrates had little option but to incarcerate young people such as those with records of, repeated petty theft.

"But such sentencing had no beneficial effect whatsoever, severing any remaining family and community ties and confirming inmates in a life of crime. Home Office figures show re-offending rates as high as 85 per cent."

Well Hall's practical advice enables some young people, for instance, to manage their finances better, and to avoid running short of money.

The offences committed by young people in the Rainer programmes also include repeated taking and driving away motor vehicles, burglary and occasionally drug-taking. But violence is not involved in 88 per cent of juvenile crime, the foundation says.

Parents lose case over danger track

A couple who refused to allow their teenage daughter to walk to school along an isolated and dangerous track yesterday lost the final round of a three-year legal battle to force their local education authority to provide her with free transport.

In a test case ruling, the House of Lords unanimously upheld the convictions of Peter and Violet Rogers, of Hall Cottages, Church Road, Copford, Essex, for failing to send their daughter Shirley, then aged 13, to school.

Lord Ackner said that the shortest route from Shirley's home to Stanway Comprehensive School was 106 yards short of the qualifying three-

Turning to the weather for power

The sun, wind, tides and geothermal heat could provide a fifth of Britain's energy needs if a relatively cautious policy is adopted of developing renewable resources over 40 to 50 years.

The proposal comes in the latest Friends of the Earth study of alternative forms of power, amounting today to 2 per cent of supplies.

In addition to power for electricity generation and liquid fuel derived from biomass wastes from the motoring and chemical industry, the report proposes a 1 per cent a year reduction in primary energy use over the next 20 years through conservation policies.

Accident victims 'put off' by courts

Lawyers and the courts must change to meet the needs of thousands of consumers who feel cut off from legal services, solicitors at their annual conference at Torquay were told yesterday.

Miss Elizabeth Filkin, director of the National Association of Citizens' Advice Bureaux, said millions of people were failing to seek compensation through the courts and found it off-putting to go to lawyers.

In accident cases, she said that "only about 10 per cent of injured persons seek compensation", which means that 2.7 million accident victims do not.

From experience within the bureaux, many people also found litigation "too formidable to contemplate. We have a long way to go before our courts promote equality before the law."

Lord Devlin had described the legal system as one with water service rather than a self-service cafeteria, she said. "If the self-service cafeteria can provide more food for more people and also give them greater power to choose

Attack on exclusive Bar rights

Sir Gordon Borrie, director general of the Office of Fair Trading, last night attacked the Bar's exclusive rights of audience in crown courts.

There are strong arguments for maintaining the Bar as a specialist profession, he said at the annual dinner of the Bar Association for Commerce, Finance and Industry, which represents barristers employed in the private sector.

Those include the benefit to the administration of justice, and to the public of having a pool of practitioners whose advocacy or specialist skills were available to all.

But, he said, "I doubt whether it is essential to the continued existence of the Bar for it to retain such exclusive rights of audience as it has at present."

Sir Gordon said that where barristers did not have exclusive rights of audience, such as in tribunals or planning inquiries, they maintained "a pre-eminence through merit" and because the parties wanted it even though clients were free to choose a solicitor.

Prosecutor service criticized

The new crown prosecution service was criticized by a solicitor and a magistrate when two cases were thrown out of court without a hearing yesterday.

The defendants had all charges against them dismissed by magistrates at Tamworth, Staffordshire, because the service, set up to deal with cases "vigorously and without delay", was not ready to proceed.

One man accused of theft and obtaining property by deception, which he denied, had travelled from Yorkshire. The other, accused of driving without due care, had come from South Wales.

In both cases the prosecution snafu further adjournments.

After objections from the defence, the court ruled that the cases should be heard as planned, and then dismissed the charges when told they could not go ahead this week.

One defence solicitor, Mr Jan Jellicoe, said the way the crown service had gone about the matter in this case was "somewhat discourteous and high-handed", and the presiding magistrate, Mr Anthony Rammell, said criticism could be levelled at the service.

The chief crown prosecutor for the area, Mr Douglas Dickenson, said he could not comment on the two cases.

He added: "I have no reason to think that the plans we have laid and the systems we are developing are bad ones."

MP impersonates Hitler for judge

There was laughter in court yesterday as Mr Neil Hamilton, a Conservative MP, treated a High Court judge and jury to his witness box impersonation of Adolf Hitler.

But the MP for Tatton in Cheshire still denied claims made in a BBC *Panorama* programme that he had goose-stepped and given the Nazi salute outside a Berlin hotel after his election in 1983.

He said that although he had no clear recollection of having done so, it was conceivable he had done a "furtive" imitation of Hitler, which had earned him his reputation as a mimic.

Raising two fingers of his left hand to his top lip in imitation of a moustache, and raising his right hand to his shoulder height, Mr Hamilton told Mr Justice Simon Brown and the jury: "I might very possibly have done something like this."

Continuing his evidence on the fourth day of his libel action against the BBC he added: "I have no recollection, but I conceive it is the sort of thing I might have done in those circumstances in that limited way."

But when asked by Mr Richard Hartley, QC, his counsel, whether he would have done it with his arm outstretched in a full Nazi salute he said: "I would not have done it in any circumstances where it might have been calculated to hurt."

He and the other MPs on the trip were winding down during the parliamentary recess and there was a "little larking about, but nothing which in any way could be regarded as excessive," Mr Hamilton said.

The January 1984 programme "Maggie's Militant Tendency" alleged his German hosts in Berlin were "embarrassed and shocked" by his actions.

But Mr Hamilton said: "I would be staggered if anybody could possibly be upset by it. It would be like being upset by Charlie Chaplin's moustache."

The MP, aged 37, claims that the programme, which alleged that a small but politically significant group of right-wingers had infiltrated the Conservative Party, made him out to be a virulent racist.

He was faced with the collapse of all his hopes and ambitions and had not received an apology from the BBC which sought to justify the allegations. He had been forced through "meat and anguish" with the stain on his good name and pushed to the point of bankruptcy to bring the case to court.

Probation policies 'appalling'

Miss Jill Cove, probation officers' leader, yesterday accused the Government of losing its way on law and order.

She told the annual conference of the National Association of Probation Officers in Bournemouth that Mrs Margaret Thatcher's administration was "floundering in a sea of repression and oppression."

Miss Cove said Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, had failed to prevent the

prison population or the number on remand reaching record levels.

The effects on prisoners and probation staff alike were appalling.

Defendants were not produced for bail applications, time was wasted on tracing prisoners and there were long delays before trials.

"This government will not grasp the nettle and issue instructions to sentencers in general, and magistrates in particular, to stop this caliginous, inhumane and mostly unnecessary practice of using custody in a cavalier and unwarranted fashion."

Miss Cove also criticized the Government's criminal justice proposals outlined last week at the Conservative Party conference.

She deplored the high number of black people in prisons, and called on probation officers to make positive recommendations when writing court reports on black defendants.

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NOTES: 1. This is not a savings plan and it therefore requires no surrender or cash value. Premiums are used only to provide the maximum sum possible should death occur during the period of the policy.

2. The benefits shown above will increase automatically by 3% of the original life cover each year (unless you stop the increases). Your premiums increase by 3% of the initial premium each year.

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1. Please tick the Cover Plus Plan option you require. £2.50 £5.00 £7.50 £10.00 £12.50

2. Please make the cheque for your first month's premium payable to Sun Alliance, and attach it with this application form.

3. I declare that I have smoked NO cigarettes in the last 12 months and that I have no intention of smoking cigarettes in the future.

4. I have no other life insurance policies in force.

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1. The Red Indian dope trick.

Even in the days when America was known as the New World, it was a country with a reputation for its spirit of enterprise and the ability of its people to make a good deal.

When the settlers started negotiating, the natives hardly knew what had hit them — and in the summer of 1626, probably the most spectacular real estate coup in history took place.

Governor Peter Minuit of the Dutch West India Company had the job of buying Manhattan Island from the Indians.

After some haggling with Chief Manhasset, the price was agreed at 24 dollars' worth of kettles, axes and cloth.

Today \$24 would not buy one square foot of office space in New York City and an office block in central Manhattan changes hands for around \$80 million. Even allowing for inflation, Minuit got himself a real bargain.

2. Not again, Josephine!

You would think that the Manhattan deal would remain a one-off for ever. After all, the Americans would surely never find anyone as naive as the Indian chief again.

But less than two centuries later, they did — and this time the loser was Napoleon, Emperor of France and (in his early years, at least) a brilliant military tactician.

In 1803, Napoleon had his mind on European affairs (in particular, an invasion of Britain), so he decided to dispense with France's American possessions.

He sold the entire Mississippi valley, an area of 828,000 square miles extending from Canada down to the Gulf of Mexico and westwards to the Rockies, for just over 27 million dollars.

Through this deal, known as the Louisiana purchase, President Thomas Jefferson doubled the size of the United States for only around 5 cents per acre.

The judgement of the Emperor, on the other hand, never seemed to be quite the same again.



5. The man of steel — at a steal.

Publishers are notorious for turning down lucrative business deals. (For example, 'Jonathan Livingston Seagull' was rejected by eighteen, while twenty-two gave the thumbs-down to James Joyce's 'The Dubliners'.)

However, in 1938, one publisher got it brilliantly right.

On June 1st of that year, 'Action Comics' appeared, featuring a character by the name of Superman (and, by turns, Clark Kent).

The character seemed to go down quite well, so the publisher offered to buy all rights to him from his creators, Joe Shuster and Jerry Siegel.

They needed money badly — so they settled for the sum of \$130, or \$65 each.

Today, of course, Superman is such big business that Marlon Brando was able to command \$3 million for his ten-minute role in the first Superman movie.

If you had seen Shuster and Siegel when they realised what they had done, you would believe a man can cry.

6. Striking a bargain.

Just occasionally, however, the seller does come out of a clever business deal on top — as in this example of a man who sold an idea to a manufacturing company.

The particular beauty of this deal lies in the fact that the idea was not one which he could put into practice himself.

He simply approached a leading match company and offered to tell them how they could save thousands of pounds by means of one change to their manufacturing procedures. The change would cost absolutely nothing to carry out — but he would require a substantial percentage of the savings in return for the idea.

Not surprisingly, the match company were more than a little suspicious, and turned him down. After all, if this idea was so obvious to an outsider, surely they could work it out for themselves.

many astonishing business deals (both good and bad) — but perhaps the greatest of them all occurred in 1955.

In that year, RCA Records paid Sam Phillips, the owner of a tiny Memphis recording company called Sun Records, the sum of \$35,000 for the exclusive contract he had with an unconventional young singer with a grossly exaggerated hip action.

Phillips was happy with the deal at the time. After all, it seemed like a lot of money and in any case, the young man had only wandered into his studio one day to cut a record on spec as a present for his mother.

But RCA knew what they were doing. In the years that followed, Elvis Presley went on to sell over a billion records — and is still selling today.

9. A horse in a Million.

In 1978, the American bicycle importer Sam Rubin bought a 3-year-old racehorse for \$25,000.

Arguably the ten greatest business deals of all time.

3. Nice ice at a reasonable price.

Napoleon did just manage to reach Moscow in his ill-fated invasion of 1812 — but it would seem that news of his poor American deal did not.

For, astonishingly, the Russians went on to become the third victims of major land deals with America.

On March 30th 1867, the U.S. Secretary of State, William Seward, bought Alaska from Tsar Alexander II for a mere \$72 million — thereby acquiring another 586,000 square miles of territory for less than 2 cents per acre.

The Tsar presumably thought that this remote, frozen and virtually uninhabited piece of land had nothing at all to commend it — and at first, the American people agreed with him, for Alaska was known as 'Seward's folly' and 'Seward's ice box' for years.

In 1896, however, gold was struck at Klondike in the Yukon, and since then, over 750 million dollars' worth has been mined.

In 1968, black gold was discovered — and an estimated 100 billion tons of coal are also lying underground, just waiting to be dug up.

4. More frozen assets.

The frozen wastes of North America again proved to be a bargain basement in 1933.

A young Greek entrepreneur, who had already made money importing tobacco into Argentina, had been trying to break into the shipping business for well over a year.

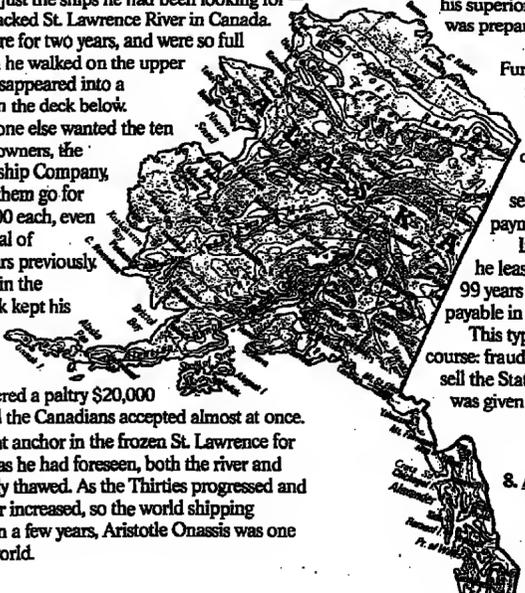
At the time, there was a world slump in the trade. No one was making any money — but the young man realised that such a situation could not go on for ever and that if he could pick up some cheap second-hand vessels now, he would be perfectly placed to make a killing when things did change.

Eventually he found just the ships he had been looking for — frozen solid into the ice-packed St. Lawrence River in Canada. They had been rusting there for two years, and were so full of ice and snow that when he walked on the upper deck of one of them, he disappeared into a snowdrift and ended up on the deck below.

Not surprisingly, no one else wanted the ten vessels — least of all their owners, the Canadian National Steamship Company, who were prepared to let them go for their scrap value of \$30,000 each, even though they had cost a total of \$2 million to build ten years previously.

Yet despite his scare in the snowdrift, the young Greek kept his wits about him and managed to determine that the ships were still structurally sound. He offered a paltry \$20,000 for each of six ships — and the Canadians accepted almost at once.

His 'fleet' remained at anchor in the frozen St. Lawrence for several months — but just as he had foreseen, both the river and the world depression finally thawed. As the Thirties progressed and the likelihood of world war increased, so the world shipping business boomed... and in a few years, Aristotle Onassis was one of the richest men in the world.



They duly went through the whole factory with a fine tooth-comb — but found nothing. By this time, they were so intrigued by the man's offer that they went back to him and agreed that if he could save them money, he could have the cut he wanted.

"Just put one striking surface on each matchbox instead of two," he advised them. "You'll cut the money you spend on abrasives by 50%."

They did — and they did. And over the next few years, the man who sold them the idea made a small fortune.

7. A monumental coup.

Arthur Furguson went a stage further, however. He made money by selling things which weren't even his in the first place.

One morning in 1923, he spotted a rich American in Trafalgar Square and had a brainwave.

Introducing himself as the official guide to the square, Furguson explained all about Nelson's Column, the lions and the fountains — and just happened to mention what a shame it was that Britain was having to sell them off to meet soaring debts.

The American asked the price. "£6,000 to the right buyer," replied Furguson, adding that as guide, he had been entrusted with the job of making the sale.

The American begged him to sell the square to him. At length, Furguson consented and went off to 'agree the deal with his superiors'. On his return, he announced that Britain was prepared to accept a cheque on the spot.

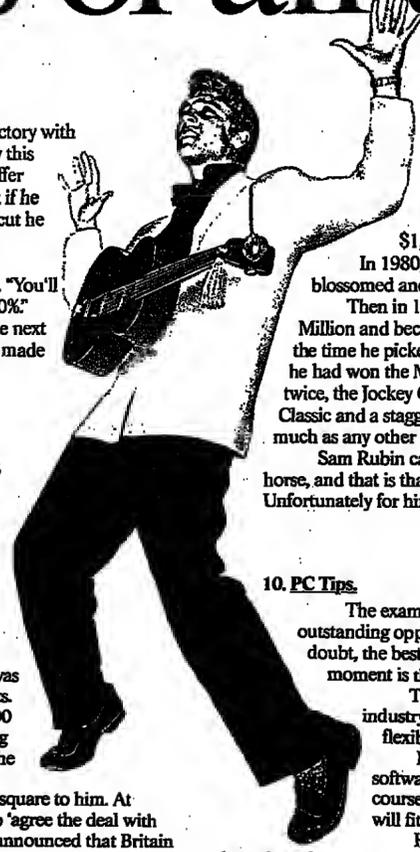
The delighted tourist wrote one at once. Furguson gave him a receipt — and even the name and address of a firm who would dismantle the square ready for shipping — and promptly marched off to cash the cheque.

Later that summer, Furguson went on to sell Big Ben for £1,000 and accepted a down payment of £2,000 on Buckingham Palace. In 1925, he went to Washington D.C., where he leased the White House to a cattle-rancher for 99 years at \$100,000 p.a. — with the first year payable in advance.

This type of business deal has a special name, of course: fraud. Furguson was eventually caught trying to sell the Statue of Liberty for another \$100,000 and was given five years in prison.

8. All stitched up.

In the unstable and unpredictable world of popular music, there have been



There didn't seem to be anything remarkable about John Henry at the time, and his previous owner was certainly satisfied with the amount, as he had bought the horse for only \$1,100 as a yearling.

In 1980, however, John Henry suddenly blossomed and won \$925,000 in prize money.

Then in 1981, he won the inaugural Arlington Million and became America's Horse of the Year. By the time he picked up the title for a second time in 1984, he had won the Million again, the Santa Anita Handicap twice, the Jockey Gold Cup, the Ballantine's Scotch Classic and a staggering \$6,591,860 — almost twice as much as any other horse in world racing history.

Sam Rubin can have only one regret about his horse, and that is that he has no stud value at all. Unfortunately for him, John Henry is a gelding.

10. PC Tips.

The example of John Henry proves that outstanding opportunities do still exist — and without doubt, the best deal in office computers at the moment is the Epson PC+.

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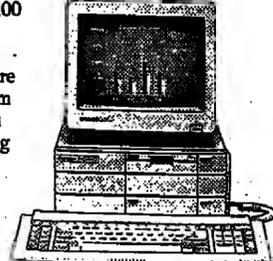
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EPSON

Shamir set to act against terror as Peres gives way on handover

Row over security lapse after Jerusalem's worst night of violence

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

Jerusalem's worst night of violence for many years, in more than 60 were injured in a grenade attack near the Old City walls, became a political issue here yesterday as Israeli politicians and security forces sought to apportion blame for what had happened.

Preventing a similar attack is certain to be a main priority of the new Israeli Government, which is now likely to be formed on Monday. Yesterday evening Labour Party negotiators told President Herzog that they would at last be able to support a Government headed by Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Likud leader.

This followed reluctant agreement from Mr Shimon Peres, the outgoing Prime Minister, that he would allow his arch critic, Mr Yitzhak Modai, back into the Cabinet in return for being able to nominate the next Ambassador to the United States.

Mr Peres appears to have given way after a threat from President Herzog to form a government without him if he delayed the agreed rotation of power much longer.

Mr Shamir is bound to want to be seen acting swiftly to minimize the danger of further attacks. Clearly a lot of questions need answering.

There could be no doubt that the attack was well planned, and that the two or three who carried it out escaped easily in the chaos on Wednesday evening, when three grenades exploded among young soldiers of the Givati Brigade and the families who had come to watch them swear an oath to their country in a ceremony by the Western Wall.

There could be no doubt that the Palestine Liberation Organization saw it as an ideal opportunity for propaganda. From its point of view, a group of Israeli soldiers from a distinguished brigade had been ambushed in a military fashion inside what is considered occupied territory.

There could be no doubt that security was not what it should have been in such a sensitive area at a time when a large number of people were bound to be present.

One official action was to call in Mr Mohammed Bassiouny, the new Egyptian Ambassador, and hand him a stiff note of protest that the claim for responsibility was issued through the PLO office in Cairo.

A rival claim by the Syrian-backed Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, which said its men had withdrawn safely after their attack, was largely discounted here.

Mr Shamir said: "It is clear the PLO is the main terrorist organization and that it continues to mount terrorist attacks on us..."

"I don't think there is any difference between soldiers and civilians. What they want to do is kill Jewish people."

Mr Peres was more defensive. "We cannot close everything hermetically," he said, almost apologetically, when asked how the grenade throwers had got within range of the soldiers. "But I do think this is a local incident."

But the fact that Soviet-made grenades were used suggests otherwise. It has been a considerable time since any attack in Israel involved the use of anything but knives or

weapons stolen or bought from the Israeli armed forces. The use of imported grenades points clearly to outside organization.

The Army and police, who were accusing each other yesterday of security lapses, are launching their own investigations. The Army has appointed an officer to be in charge of finding out what went wrong.

Yesterday 34 of those injured were still in hospital. Two were said to be severely wounded.

Eighteen people were being interrogated about the incident, although the signs were that the attackers had made good their escape through the Dung Gate, which tumbled down the hillside where the original City of David stood, but which is now a Palestinian stronghold.



Mr Shimon Peres at a Jerusalem hospital chatting to a young soldier wounded in the attack.

Israeli aircraft bomb Palestinian bases

From Our Own Correspondent, Cairo

Just about every shade of mutually hostile Palestinian extremist yesterday claimed responsibility for the grenade attack in Jerusalem on Tuesday, giving the Israelis a wide variety of targets for their retaliation raid.

They chose a series of Palestinian bases in the hills east of the Lebanese city of Sidon, sending their jets in bombing and strafing sorties against positions near the Mich Mich Palestinian camp. Local militiamen said they had shot down one of the Israeli aircraft, armed with

Sam 7 missile, and had seen its two-man crew bale out by parachute.

If Palestinian groups are loathe to admit responsibility for attacks outside Israel, there could be no doubting yesterday's enthusiasm with which at least five organizations claimed to be behind the attack near the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem, which left one Israeli dead and 69 wounded.

Mr Yassir Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organization and Abu Nidal's radical Palestinian faction - which have in the past both ordered the liquidation of each other's leadership - were among the first to say they carried out the

assault.

They were followed in quick succession by the Marxist Democrat-ic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), Abu Moussa's anti-Arafat PLO faction and a previously unknown organization which sent in "communiques" to the Agence France-Press news agency in Amman, referring to itself as the Islamic Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Several of the spokesmen insisted that they would soon provide details of the attack to prove their authorship.

If nothing else, the conflicting claims showed how broken and divided the Palestinian

movement has now become. The DFLP in Damascus angrily denounced the PLO's statement in Cairo, which said "a special group from the unit of Martyr Kamal Odwan operating inside the occupied homeland was responsible for the heroic (sic) operation carried out... in occupied Jerusalem".

The PLO claim, said the DFLP, was a lie. It was their men, the spokesman said, who had "infiltrated all the security measures of the enemy to carry out this heroic attack".

On the basis of previous attacks of this kind in Israel, the DFLP was probably to blame.

Superpower arms control talks

Soviet-Polish initiative seen as 'carrot' to West Europe

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

American acceptance of Moscow's proposals on the Star Wars programme would lead to a superpower agreement on a broad range of arms control issues, including limits on nuclear weapons in Europe, according to a joint Soviet-Polish communiqué published yesterday after a visit to Warsaw by Mr Nikolai Ryzhkov, the Soviet Prime Minister.

The phrasing left room for interpretation, but diplomats said that there seemed to be a "positive rather than negative" linkage of the issues of Star Wars and intermediate nuclear forces.

As one diplomat commented: "The Russians seemed to be saying that a great incentive to solve the Star Wars problem is the package of accords that would follow. In other words, a carrot,

especially to the West Europeans."

But Moscow does not appear to be threatening the collapse of other arms control talks if there is no progress on Star Wars, the US Strategic Defence Initiative.

"The acceptance of these (Soviet) proposals by the US Administration would mean a significant turn in the direction of achieving agreements on strategic weapons, nuclear medium range and outer space weapons," the communiqué said.

A long declaration by Warsaw Pact foreign ministers, who have just completed two days of consultations in Bucharest left open the question of linkage between the issues of outer space defence and medium range weapons in Europe.

"It is imperative," said the declaration, that Star Wars

and such projects as the "European defence initiative" be stopped. It was "indispensable" to conclude agreements on eliminating Soviet and American missiles in Europe.

The declaration recognized that small states - Moscow's and Washington's European allies - had a role to play in ending the Star Wars programme.

That is a green light for East European leaders preparing to step westwards, but also a reminder that they should put Star Wars at the top of their agenda.

The foreign ministers also said they were ready to cooperate with other countries in eliminating terrorism. This reflects an increasing willingness in the Soviet bloc to cooperate with the West on terrorism.

French to face Unifil discipline

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

More than 20 French paratroopers of the United Nations peacekeeping force in southern Lebanon are facing disciplinary proceedings after French troops at the UN's headquarters in Naqurah fired tracer bullets across the Mediterranean bay in the direction of Israel after a late night party last week.

At one point during the firing, the Israelis sent a gunboat north towards Naqurah, fearing a guerrilla attack. And when UN military policemen approached the French, several of them pointed weapons at the MPs.

The deeply embarrassing incident - which the UN hoped would not be publicized - occurred less than 24 hours before Major General Gustav Haggblad, the UN force commander, made his unprecedented request to the Israelis to let UN troops move into the western half of the Israeli occupation zone and thus fulfil part of their original 1978 mandate.

According to civilians in Naqurah, the shooting - in which at least five French soldiers with automatic weapons were involved - continued for almost half an hour, lighting up the night sky.

UN military policemen from Ghana and Ireland were sent to take control but after the French pointed guns at the MPs, the UN deputy force commander - who is French - was asked to restore order. All the French troops involved are likely to face a further military inquiry into their behaviour when they return to Paris.

Officers in a number of UN contingents have voiced their unhappiness at the French contingent in recent weeks, suggesting that the paratroopers were too aggressive and unsuited to a peacekeeping role in Lebanon.

Reagan gets big approval rating

From Michael Bixen, Washington

President Reagan has won overwhelming approval from the American public for his handling of relations with the Soviet Union, with more than twice as many blaming Mr Gorbachov rather than him for the breakdown of the Reykjavik summit.

This was shown by a series of polls conducted by the three television networks and three leading newspapers.

The CBS television poll indicated that Mr Reagan's refusal to restrict development of the Strategic Defence Initiative was correct by a 68 to 20 per cent margin.

An ABC poll showed 52 per cent against stopping space weapons development as the price of an arms agreement, although 41 per cent were in favour.

The poll, conducted on Tuesday, showed that the failure of Mr Reagan and Mr Gorbachov to reach agreement would not significantly alter the congressional elections on November 4. Of those questioned, 78 per cent said the summit would make no difference in how they vote, while 10 per cent said they were more likely to vote Democrat and 9 per cent said the result would prompt them to vote Republican.

The public seemed to share Mr Reagan's belief in SDI. Half of those asked said the US should build space weapons. 15 per cent said they should not be built and 27 per cent said they should be used as a bargaining chip.

Asked by CBS who was more to blame for the breakdown, only 17 per cent said Mr Reagan, compared with 44 per cent blaming Mr Gorbachov, 11 per cent saying both and 4 per cent saying neither. This was reflected in almost all population groups, although blacks were about evenly divided. Of the Democrats, 39 per cent blamed the Soviet leader and 22 per cent blamed Mr Reagan.

The President's optimism about the outcome of the talks appears to be justified by the polls. Some 57 per cent said that despite the breakdown at Reykjavik the meeting would eventually lead to real arms control agreements.

This contrasts with 31 per cent saying it would not. Public reaction may change as the issue is debated, but it appears that Mr Reagan has managed to put his stamp on the first impressions in the minds of an American public that rarely focuses intently on foreign policy issues.

Royal art theft by boat

Stockholm - Swedish Police have asked Interpol for help in tracing five priceless paintings stolen from a royal pleasure island yesterday in the country's fastest art theft (Christopher Mosey writes).

Thieves used a motor boat to land at one of Stockholm's least accessible museums, smashed a door, stole the most valuable works on display, and escaped by boat.

"The operation was carefully planned. It took just three minutes," said Mrs Inga Zachau, a superintendent at the Waldemars Udde museum on Djurgarden island.

The gang bypassed paintings by Prince Eugen (1865-1947) to steal five he had collected by contemporary French artists.

Salvador victim alive after six days in rubble

From Paul Valley, San Salvador

Six days after the earthquake in El Salvador and more than 24 hours after engineers directing the rescue had given up hope of finding any more survivors, they detected someone alive in the wreck of a collapsed department store.

The faint cries of the person, who has not yet been identified, were heard from the building in the heart of the capital's business district on Tuesday afternoon.

Local people, who were digging amid the wreckage of the six-storey building, sent for the International Rescue Corps, a team of British firemen with special expertise in

locating bodies buried beneath debris.

"The person was trapped on what was probably the first floor which had sunk down into the basement. We ordered complete silence on the site and tried to communicate by knocking. We used a highly sensitive Sonda microphone device which can detect sounds from through 20 feet of solid concrete," the team leader, Mr Michael White, a fireman from Exmouth, Devon, said.

"It was difficult because there had been rain the day before and the building was still settling. But amid all the other noises we thought we could hear something. We used the stereo system on the

device to pinpoint the sound."

The 14-man British team, which is equipped with high-tech equipment and sniffer dogs for detection of entombed bodies, is not equipped for large-scale excavation work.

"We found a group of Guatemalans working on a nearby building and they shifted across to work on the noise we heard," Mr White said.

The rescue workers, who were members of the Guatemala fire service, dug all day on Wednesday without success. Yesterday morning they called the British team back to the site for further attempts to pinpoint the knocking sound.

WORLD SUMMARY

Police in Seoul storm parliament

Seoul (Reuter) - Police yesterday stormed the South Korean Parliament to allow the ruling Democratic Justice Party to approve a government plan to arrest an opposition deputy, witnesses said.

The Speaker, Mr Lee Chai-hyung, called in about 500 policemen to prevent opposition members from entering a room at the National Assembly where the ruling party forced the plan through.

The order was given after about 60 members of the New Korea Democratic Party (NKDP) rioted the podium in the main chamber and stopped the Speaker from opening a session for a vote on the government plan. Witnesses said NKDP members wrestled with policemen but could not break a police cordon.

Members of the majority Democratic Justice Party then gathered at another room in the Parliament and unilaterally passed the vote allowing the Government to arrest the deputy, Mr Yoo Sang-bwan, for criticizing the country's anti-communist policies.

Aquino faces breach

Manila - A serious breach in President Aquino's coalition Government has occurred with the announcement by the Vice President, Mr Salvador Laurel, that his party will field its own candidates in local and congressional elections next year (Keith Dalton writes).

Mr Laurel said he had not been told of a planned alliance to allow Mrs Aquino to select candidates for the joint May elections, but this would not stop his political party Unido from fielding its own candidates even if they competed against Mrs Aquino's nominees.

Mr Laurel also said he did not agree with "a lot of provisions" in the new draft constitution presented on Wednesday in Mrs Aquino's name, and he had not yet decided whether to join her and campaign for its ratification in a plebiscite in January.

High climber

Kathmandu (AFP) - Reinhold Messner (right), the renowned Italian climber, yesterday became the first European to scale all 14 of the world's mountains higher than 26,000ft when he reached the top of Mt Lhotse.

The Nepalese Tourism Ministry said that Messner, aged 42, and his compatriot Juhann Kammeler, aged 36, reached the 27,936ft summit of Mt Lhotse, the world's fourth highest peak, via the treacherous west face and without using oxygen.



Ozal ponders

Ankara (Reuter) - The Turkish Prime Minister, Mr Turgut Ozal, beset by political and economic problems, worked yesterday on a new Cabinet list for his first big government reshuffle after three years in power.

All 21 ministers and the executive board of his ruling conservative Motherland Party have resigned to make way for sweeping changes.

Party officials say seven or eight of the less successful ministers might lose their jobs. The Prime Minister said he expected to announce his new Cabinet team today.

Kinnock warning

Rome - European governments should have a direct say in arms control talks between the superpowers because Europe would be the killing grounds in a nuclear exchange, Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour Party leader, said here yesterday (John England writes).

If Western Europeans did not make their collective voice heard there would be a danger that they would be seen in a "mood of neutralism", he said during a two-day meeting of the Socialist International council attended by leading socialist politicians from 30 countries.

Taiwan caution

Taipei (Reuter) - Opposition politicians yesterday welcomed moves by Taiwan's ruling party to end martial law, but warned that democratic change might be only cosmetic.

The Kuomintang (Nationalist) Party has approved a proposal for a new national security law to replace martial law which has been in force since 1949 and which prohibits new political parties.

It said legislation would be drafted that would allow parties to be formed if they respected the constitution, opposed communism and did not advocate independence for Taiwan, which Taipei regards as part of China.

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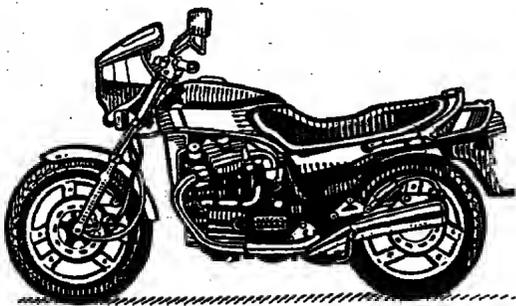
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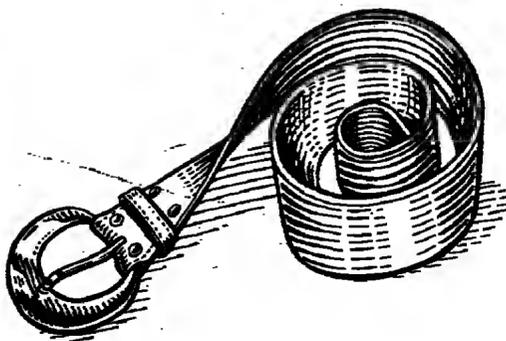
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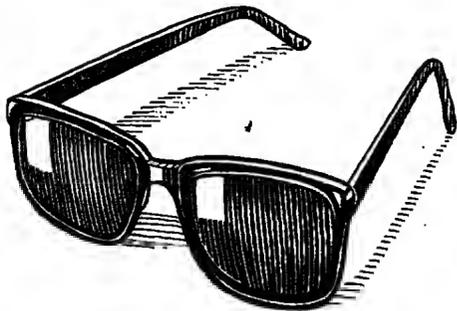
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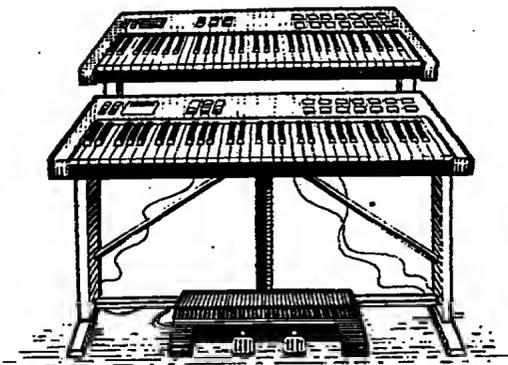
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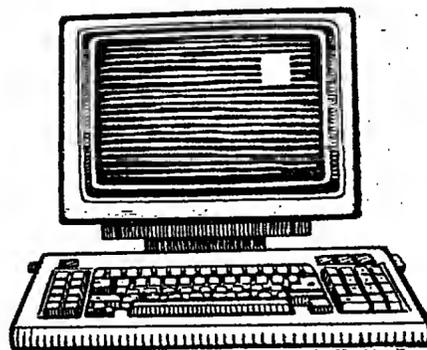
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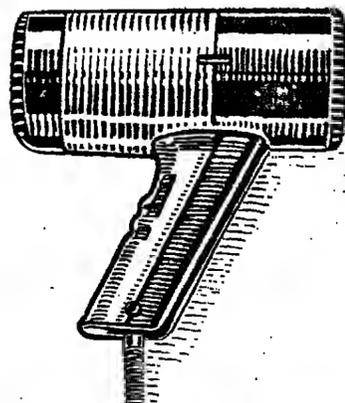
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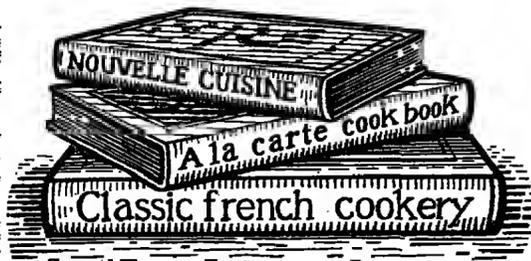
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Fears grow that Mafia is moving into richest region in Italian south

The Italian Parliament's anti-Mafia commission is back in Rome with material to decide whether the region of Apulia, which boasts of being the only part of the south free of organized crime, has become a new field for the Mafia and the Camorra.

The commission made a two-day tour of the region. In some places it had a bad reception on the grounds that its presence lent credence to the idea that Apulia had finally fallen to the south's traditional criminals.

Apulia is by far the most prosperous of the southern regions, coming sixth in the national scale of per capita income, while its Calabrian neighbour is in the last place out of 20.

The reason for this difference has invariably been ascribed in part to the fact that Calabria is submerged under the weight of its own form of Mafia while Apulia had nothing similar.

Senior police officers who have served in both regions say that if they came to Apulia it meant that they could expect to sleep at night.

Obviously the region was not free of crime, but most of it was robbery, carried out by individuals rather than members of an all-powerful criminal organization trying to exploit the economy in all possible ways.

The first serious shock came last Saturday when Signor Francesco Guadalupi, aged 61, the chairman of the association of industrialists in Brindisi, was shot and seriously injured in a crime committed in the centre of the city. The incident had some

From Peter Nichols, Rome characteristics of a Mafia shooting, including the use of a sawn-off shotgun which one of the would-be assassins pressed into Signor Guadalupi's stomach before pulling the trigger.

The Bari newspaper *La Gazzetta del Mezzogiorno*, published a bitter leading article on Sunday, a cry from the heart recalling to its readers: "We have often shouted to the four winds that we are the south without the Mafia, without the Camorra."



But even before the Brindisi crime, certain signs "alien until yesterday to our society were becoming rooted in the beautiful farmland of Apulia". Then came the ambush in broad daylight which prompted the title of the leading article: "In Apulia as in Palermo."

So far the members of the anti-Mafia commission have said little about their visit, but no doubt they will have heard of such cases as the allegedly extensive swindling of the health service in Apulia which in Calabria, Sicily and Campania is said to be organized by the Mafia or the Camorra.

There is also the effect on Apulia of the 200 or so accused members of the Mafia

and of the Camorra who are in Apulian prisons or have been sent to live in Apulia under supervision by the authorities.

This measure is used as a form of exile which is supposed to cut them off from their criminal contacts.

Other parts of the country which have been used in this way have found that having Mafia and Camorra exiles in their midst meant that their own immunity from such forms of crime was threatened or destroyed.

Last autumn, police in Apulia arrested what they took to be the first groups of people involved in the international drugs traffic who were trying to use Apulian beaches to land their cargoes.

Signor Abdon Alinovi, the commission's chairman, said before he left Bari for Rome: "Particularly in the provinces of Brindisi, Taranto and Foggia there have been episodes which resemble, naturally at a different level in terms of quantity and quality, what happens in Campania, Calabria and Sicily."

The admitted threat to Apulia is accompanied by a fresh growth of Mafia violence in Sicily where Signor Renato Nicolosi, head of the regional administration, has called on the central Government to adopt adequate measures or send the Army to the island.

There is a similar aggressiveness in Calabria and commentators increasingly maintain that, despite the mass trial of Mafia leaders in Palermo, organized crime is spreading geographically and in terms of power.



Workers from two rival Bangkok charities fighting for the body of a road accident victim. Police arrested 12 of the workers, whose charities compete for corpses so that they can appear more efficient and thereby attract bigger public donations.

Nigerian wins Nobel literature prize

By Philip Howard Literary Editor

The Nobel Prize for Literature was awarded yesterday to Wole Soyinka, the Nigerian playwright, poet, novelist and Professor of Literature. He is the first African and the first black to be awarded the prize, worth \$290,000 (£193,500).

The Swedish Academy, which this year celebrates its 200th anniversary, describes Soyinka as "a writer who in a wide cultural perspective and with poetic overtones fashions the drama of existence" — which may sound more perspicacious in Swedish.

Soyinka, aged 52, has published 20 books of plays, poetry and fiction. He writes in English with a rich mix of his native Yoruba imagery and idiom. He was educated in Iba-

dan and at Leeds University, where he read English. He then worked as a teacher and a reader and script-writer at the Royal Court theatre in London, where his first dramatic sketches and poems were performed. When he returned to Nigeria he formed a theatrical company.

He was imprisoned for two years during the Nigerian Civil War, and then spent six years in exile in Europe and Ghana. In 1976 he went home to Nigeria and became Professor of Comparative Literature at Ife University, periodically returning to Europe and the United States as a visiting professor.

His first plays, written in London, were *The Swamp Dwellers* and *The Jewel*. Later satirical comedies were *The Trial of Brother Jero* and its

sequel, *Jero's Metamorphosis*. He rewrote *The Bacchae* of Euripides in an African setting; and his opera *Woyzeck* is based on *The Beggar's Opera* and *The Threepenny Opera*. He is a man of two worlds,

obsessed with the theme of the oppressive boot, whether worn by whites or blacks. In his account of life as a political prisoner, *The Man Died*, he gave his political credo: "The man dies in all who keep silent in the face of tyranny."



Wole Soyinka: first African to win literature prize.

He is a radical who wants to change the world, and declares passionately against apartheid and colonialism. At the same time he writes powerfully against the corruption of Nigeria by oil money, and the abuse of human rights throughout Africa. He is a wordsmith, a punomane indulging in complex word-plays, and often scatological: a Yoruba James Joyce. He is a true writer, obsessed by language and by his tragic vision of his native land.

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MEP says true cost of surplus concealed

From Richard Owen Brussels

A British MEP is claiming the real cost of getting rid of European Economic Community (EEC) food surpluses is being covered up and that they are worth only a quarter of their published value.

Mr Peter Price, Conservative MEP for London South-East and budget spokesman in the European Parliament, said yesterday that EEC budget estimates concealed the true cost of surplus disposal, which he put at more than £5 billion.

EEC states were paid £2.3 billion a year for storage, he said, but depreciation of the stocks' true value was less than £1.86 billion.

Mr Price made the claim after EEC farm ministers failed to agree an emergency measure proposed by the EEC Commission to reduce dairy sector surpluses.

His remarks also coincided with rumours that M Jacques Delors, the Commission President, would propose reforms of the Common Agricultural Policy and a shifting of the burden of farm subsidies onto those EEC governments which benefit from them.

Mr Michael Elliott, Labour MEP for West London, said that protesters in London tomorrow would march between Acton and Southall — two centres where he said nearly 5,000 tonnes of EEC butter was stored.

Sir Henry Plumb, leader of the Conservative MEPs, yesterday called for a World Food Conference next year to find a way of getting European food surpluses to Third World nations which have food shortages. Letters, page 17

Mozambique crisis

Harare considers boosting troops

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

Zimbabwean defence and intelligence chiefs were reported to be in Maputo, the Mozambique capital, yesterday for talks on reinforcing Zimbabwe's military presence in Mozambique to try to stem an offensive by anti-government guerrillas there.

The Defence Minister, Mr Ernest Kadungure, the Army commander, Lieutenant-General Rex Nhoogo, and the Security Chief, Mr Emmerson Munangagwa, were reported by the South African Press Association to be in the Zimbabwe delegation.

Diplomatic sources here said insurgents of the Mozambique National Resistance (MNR) appeared to be in control of a swathe of territory on either side of the lower Zambezi River, which cuts Mozambique in half.

MNR activity has not been limited to the northern and central parts of the country. In the south this week a bridge was blown up on the railway line linking Maputo with Zimbabwe, and a handmine derailed a goods train travelling from Maputo to South Africa.

There are at least 6,000 Zimbabwean troops already in Mozambique guarding the vital road, rail and oil pipeline links between Zimbabwe and the port of Beira.

The Beira corridor is the shortest route to the sea for Zimbabwe and Zambia, but it carries only a fraction of their trade because of sabotage and the port's limited capacity.

Up to 90 per cent of Zimbabwe's trade and about 50 per cent of Zambia's passes through South Africa. If Pretoria were to refuse to handle this traffic, in response to international economic sanctions, the routes through Mozambique would assume crucial importance.

On Wednesday the South African Broadcasting Corporation gave prominence to an

interview with the MNR's European Director, Mr Paulo D'Oliveira, in which he warned the United States and Britain that they would be wasting time and money in helping Mozambique to repair its road and rail links while the war continued.

Mozambique and other frontline states have accused Pretoria of aiding an MNR invasion of Mozambique from Malawi, the only African state with full diplomatic relations with South Africa.

Mr Robert Mugabe, the Zimbabwe Prime Minister, and President Kaunda of Zambia met at Victoria Falls on Wednesday to discuss punitive action against President Banda of Malawi, but decided against it for the time being.

Malawi, which has repeatedly denied harbouring the MNR insurgents, would be in dire economic straits if Zimbabwe closed its border, since much of its imports and exports are carried by road through Zimbabwe to South African ports.

South Africa, whose Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan, claimed on Wednesday that Mozambique was "hovering on the brink of collapse", insists that it is not providing aid to the MNR and that the plight of President Machel is of his own making.

General Malan has dismissed as "laughable" and "propaganda hysteria" claims by Maputo that South African troops are massing on Mozambique's borders, preparing to invade.

HARARE: Mr Munangagwa and Lieutenant-General Nhoogo returned from the Maputo talks yesterday (A Correspondent writes).

Mr Munangagwa led the Zimbabwe delegation at the talks, which followed up the summit meeting in Maputo last weekend of leaders of the six frontline states.

Ershad denies charges of blatant poll fraud

From Ahmed Fazl, Dhaka

The military Government of Bangladesh, with its image smeared by allegations of blatant fraud at the presidential poll, yesterday tried to clear some of the charges as police clashed with opposition protesters calling for an end to martial law.

President Ershad, the military ruler who scored a "landslide victory" in Wednesday's election which was boycotted by the leading opposition parties, said the opposition would call any election they lost rigged. He played down the extent of the ballot-rigging and its impact on the credibility of the election, which he said was the final step to restoring civilian rule.

"I have not heard of irregularities," he said, "except in a few polling centres. This has been the most peaceful poll in Bangladesh's 15-year history." About 50 people were wounded as police and Awami League supporters clashed af-

ter a protest rally in central Dhaka. Five people were detained.

President Ershad's main opponent, Sheikh Hasina Wazed, leader of the Awami League, said her party had information that less than one per cent of voters turned up at polling booths.

"My achievement is that I have held the election despite the strike and boycott threats by the opposition," President Ershad said. "And why should I rig an election when I am contesting 'faceless' candidates?" President Ershad told journalists, most of whom had seen the deserted Dhaka streets and the nearly empty polling centres, that he expected between 52 to 55 per cent turnout when the official counting of votes finished.

"You might have some polling centres where the turnout was poor, but there are over 23,000 other polling centres," President Ershad said.

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Opposition sees end to Anzus New Zealand's anti-nuclear Bill clears the first hurdle

From Richard Long, Wellington

Royal Navy ships will be banned from New Zealand ports and New Zealand servicemen prevented from training with British nuclear forces under Wellington's anti-nuclear legislation, which was reported back to Parliament yesterday after select committee consideration.

The Nuclear Free Zone, Disarmament and Arms Control Bill, which bans nuclear-armed ships from New Zealand harbours, was immediately dubbed "the Anzus termination Bill" by Sir Robert Muldoon, the former National Party Prime Minister.

The Labour Government's anti-nuclear policy has led to New Zealand's suspension from the Anzus alliance with the United States and Australia, and Sir Robert said the Bill, if passed in its present form, would mean the end of Anzus as far as New Zealand was concerned.

He said the Bill would make it impossible for either the Royal Navy or the US Navy to send any of its ships to New Zealand without breaching their policies of neither confirming nor denying the presence of nuclear weapons.

The Bill easily survived the vote, by 44 to 26, and will now be debated in depth. Mr David Lange, the Prime Minister, does not expect it to be passed into law till next year. The Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Geoffrey Palmer, said the Bill would enshrine in law the Government's anti-nuclear policies. Without it there was no guarantee that the nuclear warships ban would remain in force.

The Opposition expressed dismay that the Bill's provisions remained unchanged, but Government MPs saw it as the first step down the long road to nuclear disarmament. They said it set an example for other countries in being a law that could be enforced.

An attempt by peace groups to have the ban on harbour visits by foreign nuclear warships extended to the 12-mile territorial limit was rejected on the grounds that it would conflict with international free transit agreements. The Bill prevents any New Zealander from assisting a person who has control over any nuclear device — a clause which the Opposition maintains will prevent New Zealand servicemen from training with British or US forces.

It requires the Prime Minister in approving the entry of foreign warships, to be "satisfied" that they are not carrying nuclear weapons. An attempt to have the wording strengthened to "satisfied beyond reasonable doubt" was rejected by the select committee.

The committee chairman, Ms Helen Clark, said it had decided against strengthening the Bill in any major way "in the belief that in their present form those clauses will prevent the entry of nuclear weapons into New Zealand, which, after all, is the key objective of the Bill".

Sir Robert, the Opposition spokesman on foreign affairs, said the National Party would repeal the provisions of the Bill that were "unworkable or repugnant". These included clauses banning nuclear ship visits and the clause which he said appeared to make it impossible for New Zealand servicemen to co-operate with British or US forces.

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US admits supplying missiles to rebels

From Michael Hamlyn Islamabad

Mr Casper Weinberger, the US Defence Secretary, admitted yesterday that his Government was supplying sophisticated anti-aircraft missiles to the Afghanistan Mujahidin guerrillas.

The admission, an apparent lapse of awareness of what is and is not admissible to help the guerrillas, was later withdrawn.

Mr Weinberger was asked whether Pakistan was holding up the supply of Stinger missiles to the Mujahidin guerrillas. He replied they were not, although, he said: "We have had a few problems with Stingers due to lack of training in the beginning. It is not an easy weapon to use."

Then he added as a clincher: "The effect of its presence there is demonstrating the need for it".

Though it is not a closely-guarded secret that the rebels receive US arms, it is not generally admitted openly since the only way that could be supplied is through Pakistan, and that would make Pakistan itself vulnerable to direct Russian attacks.

At the prompting of one of his staff, therefore, he corrected himself at the end of his press conference by saying that though he agreed Pakistan was not holding up the supply of Stinger missiles, "I am not saying that they have been delivered".

Mr Weinberger also made a much more detailed attack on the good intentions of the Russians as evidenced by the announcement of troop withdrawals from Afghanistan which are now proceeding.

He said in China last week that the withdrawal was "a ruse". Yesterday he explained that the regiments due to be pulled out, two mechanized



Mr Casper Weinberger winces with a stomach upset as he bows to a guard of honour with the Pakistan Foreign Minister, Mr Sahebzada Yaqub Khan, in Islamabad.

infantry regiments were only sent to Afghanistan "for the purpose of withdrawal", that a tank regiment has had difficulties of supply and has never been up to full strength, and in any case "this is not tank country", and that the anti-aircraft units were useless against a rebellion that possessed no aircraft.

"Their military capability is not changed by any minor change in personnel," Mr Weinberger added. "In any case there are those who say that the military capability is increased because they have fewer inactive units to the country."

● Hospital bombed: An incendiary bomb exploded yesterday in the Lady Reading Hospital in central Peshawar, west Pakistan, wounding three people including a doctor, hospital officials said (AFP reports).

Colombo claims victory

Colombo (Reuters) — Sri Lankan forces killed 65 Tamil guerrillas and lost 14 troops during a "successful" operation which ended on Wednesday night, leaving 3,000 homeless, the government media centre said yesterday. The centre said the four-day battle, in the northern Mannar and Vavuniya districts, ended when three rebels died in a clash yesterday.

Americans aid air security

Colombo — The United States is to provide security for Colombo's international airport, the US Embassy here said yesterday (A Correspondent writes). The assistance, which might include training in bomb detection and managing hostage crises, would be confined to the civilian installation only.

New breed urban guerrillas worry Bonn security forces

A week ago West German left-wing urban guerrillas struck for the first time in Bonn, the nation's capital. In the first of a two-part series, Philip Jacobson reports on the "second generation" terrorists, successors to the Red Army Faction, as they prepare for a bloody offensive.

There are no more than 30 of them, supported by perhaps another 50 active sympathisers. They have to finance operations with risky bank raids and steal their weapons from gun shops. They are not particularly well educated, nor, apparently, are they motivated by burning political ideology.

Yet one of West Germany's top security officials confesses that today's terrorists in the Red Army Faction scare him big. "These people are stronger than at any time in the past, and the new ones seem to be only interested in killing," says Herr Alexander Prechtel, of the Federal Prosecutor's office.

Take last week's murder of Herr Gerold von Braunmühl, a senior figure in the German Foreign Office. Immaculately planned, mercilessly executed, it was clearly intended to convey a deliberate challenge to West Germany's large and sophisticated security apparatus.

The murder weapon turned out to be the same Smith and Wesson .38 revolver used almost a decade earlier to kill Haus-Martin Schleyer, leader of the industrialists' organization. A six-page letter the hit team left nearby was written on the same typewriter that has been used to claim responsibility for two other killings early this year. The getaway car was damped not far away with the dead man's briefcase — bullet-holed and smeared with blood — in full view on the back seat.

"They're cunning as hell, telling us we can't stop them," says Herr Prechtel.

It is barely two years since the West German authorities became aware of the emergence of a second generation faction. By the end of the 1982

virtually all the original hard core of the Baader-Meinhof gang were dead or serving long jail sentences. There was a widespread feeling that the security crisis was over, the battle against internal terrorism won, although some experts warned that the relative calm merely indicated that a new network was being recruited.

The alarm bells started ringing in mid-1984, when 17 young Germans under occa-

Terror in Germany Part 1

sional police surveillance suddenly dropped out of sight. "They just vanished, leaving everything behind, and we knew then that we were in for big trouble," Herr Prechtel recalls in the heavily-guarded Federal Prosecutor's head office at Karlsruhe.

A spate of bombing attacks against targets broadly associated with Nato and the "military-industrial complex" was followed by the first faction assassinations for seven years, the victims selected for their association with "imperialistic" programmes such as the Star Wars project.

It was soon clear that the revived Red Army Faction is a much more formidable enemy than the often baphazard and disorganized Baader-Meinhof

group. Its "underground" leaders have clearly learned invaluable lessons from the long public trials of their predecessors.

The most graphic example of this concerns fingerprints, which have previously provided crucial evidence to convict faction terrorists.

To the dismay of the security authorities, the new wave of attacks has yielded just one set of prints, still unidentified. At a recent raid on a gun shop the terrorists laid unexploded bombs off over a glass counter, but left no traces for the forensic technicians. "We believe they are coating their hands with something like the compound boxes use for sealing up cuts," says Herr Prechtel.

The same meticulous attention to detail is apparent in their explosives technology. One of their first bombs failed to go off because cold weather had drained a timing battery. The remote control device that blew up Karl Heinz Beckurts, research director of the Siemens Electronics group, and his driver last July contained an extra battery, just in case.

Most worrying of all for those hounding them, the new inner core of faction leaders is fanatically security conscious. Although the terrorists have struck all over West Germany in the past 18 months, the murder of Herr von Braunmühl was their first killing in the federal capital.

"We were braced for an operation in Bonn, but we couldn't prevent it," observes Herr Prechtel. "It's a city full of soft targets, and these new killers seem perfectly happy to go after secondary people if they can't get at the most important figures."

West Germany faces a general election in January. For the security authorities, this raises the prospect of trying to keep the Red Army Faction's hit teams away from the country's most prominent politicians when the campaigning begins.

Tomorrow: Hi-tech fight against terror.

Herr von Braunmühl: mercilessly executed

he returned home from watching pelota, a racket game. Police sources said he had twice rejected ETA's demands to pay "revolutionary taxes", extortion money levied by guerrillas on Basque businessmen and professionals.

Meanwhile, ETA claimed responsibility for the car

explosion that killed a policeman and injured 18 people in Barcelona on Tuesday.

ETA has rarely operated in Catalonia in its 18-year-old war for Basque independence, but officials said it was probably capitalizing on the publicity surrounding Barcelona's bid to host the 1992 Olympics.

Basque industrialist kidnapped

Vitoria (Reuters) — A Basque industrialist has been kidnapped here in the first abduction in the region in 10 months. ETA separatist guerrillas are suspected.

Señor Lucio Aguinagalde Aizpurua, aged 70, was abducted on Wednesday night as

he returned home from watching pelota, a racket game. Police sources said he had twice rejected ETA's demands to pay "revolutionary taxes", extortion money levied by guerrillas on Basque businessmen and professionals.

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Soldier dies after tank chase

Sydney — (AP) A soldier who stole a troop carrier died yesterday, a day after he led police on an hour-long chase before shooting himself on the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

In an apparently motiveless act, the soldier, Lance Corporal Ross Edwards, aged 30, took the machine from a Sydney army base and, using a periscope to navigate, drove the tracked machine, hatches closed, across Sydney. During the chase, Edwards was shot and wounded.

House of Lords

School route available for accompanied child

Rogers and Another v Essex County Council
Before Lord Bridge of Harwich, Lord Brandon of Oakbrook, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, Lord Oliver of Aylmerton and Lord Ackner [Speeches October 16]

For the purposes of determining whether a school was within walking distance of a child's home within the meaning of section 39 of the Education Act 1944, an "available route" was one along which a child accompanied as necessary could walk with reasonable safety to school.

The House of Lords so held in allowing an appeal by Essex County Council from a decision of the Divisional Court (Lord Justice Parker and Mr Justice Evans) (7 The Times March 2 1985; [1985] 1 WLR 701) allowing appeals by the parents of Shirley Rogers, then aged 12, Peter Albert Rogers and Violet Rogers against their convictions by the Chelmsford Justices on May 23, 1984, affirmed on appeal by Chelmsford Crown Court on July 13, 1984, of offences against section 39 of the Education Act 1944.

Section 39 provides: "(1) If any child of compulsory school age who is a registered pupil at a school fails to attend regularly thereat, the parent of the child shall be guilty of an offence against this section. (2) In any proceedings for an offence against this section... the child shall not be deemed to have failed to attend regularly at the school by reason of his absence therefrom with leave or... (4) If the parent proves that the school at which the child is a registered pupil is not within walking distance of the child's home, and that no suitable arrangements have been made by the local education authority... for his transport to and from the school... (5) In this section the expression... 'walking distance' means, in relation to a child who has not attained the age of eight years two miles, and in the case of any other child three miles, measured by the nearest available route."

Mr Conrad Dehn, QC and Mr David McIvor for the council; Mr Gavin Lingham, QC and Mr Edward Irving for the parents.

LORD ACKNER said that the distance from the child's home to the school at which she was registered was 2.94 miles by the shortest route.

That route involved crossing Copford Plains by an isolated and partly unmade track which was entirely unlighted. In winter it was one of considerable danger for a young girl. Copford Plains were also extremely difficult to cross in winter and might be passable on foot in the morning but impassable by the evening.

The parents quite reasonably regarded the route as unsuitable for use by their daughter, if unaccompanied. Since the local education authority were only prepared to make the school bus available on payment of the concessionary fare, which the parents were not willing to pay, the child stayed away from school.

The crown court had concluded that they were bound by the Divisional Court decision in *Forrier v Walker* (1954) 1 WLR 306. That decision was not required to provide centralized services to the tenants if he did not consider it necessary or expedient in the common interests of the tenants to do so, the minister remained under an obligation to keep under review the question whether it was at any time so expedient.

Minister obliged to organize smallholders' marketing

Williams v Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Before Lord Bridge of Harwich, Lord Brandon of Oakbrook, Lord Griffiths, Lord Mackay of Clashfern and Lord Ackner [Speeches October 16]

The Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food was obliged to provide an organization or make other arrangements for the disposal by him of the marketable produce of smallholdings let on his behalf by the Land Settlement Association Ltd, and although he was not required to provide centralized services to the tenants if he did not consider it necessary or expedient in the common interests of the tenants to do so, the minister remained under an obligation to keep under review the question whether it was at any time so expedient.

The House of Lords so held in allowing an appeal by the plaintiff in a test case, John Warwick Williams, against the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, when considering in his judgment in that case, whether a route was available, was discounting all safety considerations.

His Lordship could not accept that, in the context in which his observations were made, Lord Goddard was concerned with a route which was said to be dangerous only if the children walked along it unaccompanied.

It was clear that the word "available" qualified the word "route". That it had to be reasonable, practicable, for a child to walk along it to school did not admit of any argument. It had to be free from obstructions or obstacles which would make its use impracticable. Dangers inherent in a particular route were factors that had to be taken into account when considering its availability.

The short issue in the appeal was whether "availability" was to be measured by what was reasonable for an unaccompanied child to use. It was submitted that once a child was of sufficient age to go out on the street alone, then if the route was not reasonably safe for the child to walk along unaccompanied the route was not "available".

Quite apart from the fact that there were no words in the section to support such a submission, the test suggested was hopelessly vague, and the complete impracticability of such a test in itself persuaded his Lordship that it was never in the contemplation of Parliament.

A route to be "available" within the meaning of section 39(5) had to be a route along which a child accompanied as necessary could walk with reasonable safety to school. It did not fail to qualify as "available" because of dangers which would arise if the child was unaccompanied.

On Bridge, Lord Brandon, Lord Mackay and Lord Oliver agreed.

Solicitors: Mr R. W. Adcock, Chelmsford; Ellison & Co, Colchester.

1984, granted the plaintiff a declaration that on the true construction of his tenancy agreement of an agricultural holding on the Chawston Estate the minister was bound to provide schemes for (1) the disposal of the plaintiff's produce, and (2) the provision of centralized services to the plaintiff among other tenants on the estate, in accordance with the agreement.

Mr T. Scott Baker, QC and Mr Duncan Matheson for the plaintiff; Mr Derek Wood, QC and Mr Christopher Friday, QC, for the minister.

Law Report October 17 1986

under Part III of the agreement. It was submitted on his behalf that he had not, if he did not consider it "necessary or expedient" to do so, he was under no obligation to undertake the disposal of the tenant's produce either as principal or agent.

If the minister was right, Part III of the agreement and indeed the 1951 scheme itself operated entirely at his discretion. Whenever he chose he could render them nugatory. His Lordship would only accept that if compelled by clear language.

But the operative language was tolerably clear. Stripped of inessential words, the minister's obligation was "to maintain such organization or make such arrangements as he may consider necessary or expedient for the disposal by the minister of the produce of, etc." The words "if any" were conspicuously absent and were certainly not to be implied.

As the judge had put it, the obligation on the minister was to provide an organization or make such other arrangements as he may consider necessary or expedient for the disposal of the produce of the smallholdings situated on the estate or of the Land Settlement Smallholdings generally.

The primary issue was whether the minister had assumed any obligation at all

Description in rating list not binding

Hailbury Investments Ltd v Westminster City Council

Before Lord Bridge of Harwich, Lord Brandon of Oakbrook, Lord Griffiths, Lord Mackay of Clashfern and Lord Ackner [Speeches October 16]

Unoccupied buildings entered in the valuation list as "offices" but prevented from being so used by planning conditions were still the same hereditaments as those in the list and the unoccupied rate was payable in respect of them.

The House of Lords dismissed an appeal by Hailbury Investments Ltd from the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Stephen Brown and Sir David Cairns) (The Times December 24, 1984; (1984) 83 LGR 383) who had allowed the rating authority's appeal from Mr Justice Woolf in the Divisional Court (The Times July 18, 1983; (1983) 82 LGR 331).

The judge had allowed Hailbury's appeal by stipulation from the metropolitan sanitary district magistrate, Mr Edmund Geoffrey MacDermott, at Horseferry Road Magistrates' Court, who had issued distress warrants for the unpaid rates.

Mr Charles Fay for Hailbury; Mr Michael Burke-Gaffney, QC and Mr Clive Newberry for Westminster.

of the specified services unless at any particular time he considered it expedient.

The criterion of expediency in relation to the provision of the specified services had to be the same in relation to the immediate predecessor obligation as it was in relation to the specified services generally. The plaintiff contended that the minister had always to be under an obligation to provide some centralized services.

His Lordship could not agree. The question the minister had to ask himself was: "What centralized services is it expedient in the common interest of the tenants that I should provide? The answer at any particular time might be some or none."

It was now rightly contended, however, that the minister remained under an obligation throughout the continuance of the tenancy to keep under review the question whether it was expedient to provide any of the specified services.

Lord Brandon, Lord Griffiths, Lord Mackay and Lord Ackner agreed.

Solicitors: Ifliffes for Winter Wilkinson, St. Neots; Solicitor: MAFF.

that the hereditament to which any entry in the valuation list related was, in the case of a corporeal hereditament, simply the physical entity comprised in any unit of property identified by the description and other particulars appearing in that entry.

It mattered not, the council said, that the description in the list was no longer appropriate accurately to describe the use for which that unit of property was or might lawfully be occupied. If it was the same physical entity, it remained the same hereditament.

If it might lawfully be occupied for any purpose, there was no prohibition of occupation of the hereditament by that paragraph 2(a) or (b) of Schedule 1 was capable of applying.

The resolution of the issue depended on the true construction of the Act and was to be found, in his Lordship's opinion, in provisions of the Act relating to the preparation and alteration of valuation lists.

His Lordship concluded that, on the true construction of the Act, "the hereditament" referred to in paragraph 2(a) and (b) applied to a unit of property that was sufficiently identified by an entry in the valuation list whether or not the description of the hereditament in that entry appropriately described the purpose for which the hereditament might lawfully be occupied.

It followed that Hailbury had not failed at the material time been prohibited from occupying the

hereditaments in question, nor had the hereditaments been kept vacant by reason of action taken by any local authority with a view to prohibiting their occupation. Hailbury were liable for the disputed rates.

His Lordship reached that conclusion without regret. Problems of enforcement in planning law had shown how easily material changes of use might escape the attention of local authorities.

If Hailbury were right, any change of use of premises might result in the creation of a new hereditament in respect of which the occupier could only be made liable for rates by an alteration of the valuation list.

That would introduce a novel and surprising doctrine into rating law. Its application would give rise to the precise questions as to the degree of correspondence between the description of the hereditament and the purpose for which it was occupied that was necessary to an effective entry in the valuation list.

His Lordship could not see that any legitimate interest of ratepayers required the protection of such a doctrine. It would, on the other hand, create obvious difficulties for rating authorities.

Lord Brandon, Lord Griffiths, Lord Mackay and Lord Ackner agreed.

Solicitors: Asher Fishman & Co; Mr. G. M. Ives, Westminster.



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THE ARTS

'Why do orchestras exclude the music of our age?'

Paul Griffiths deplores the way in which modern composers are virtually ignored, while the 19th century 'Greats' flourish

Orchestras to play anything earlier than Haydn, and there are signs that this erosion from the past will continue: that the demand will be for "authentic" Mozart, then "authentic" Beethoven, then "authentic" Schumann.

It would be distressing to think the day may be approaching when an orchestra will play Brahms merely because he falls within their period, rather than for some more artistic imperative.

The big orchestras may therefore find themselves hemmed into an ever-smaller corner if they continue to ignore most of the 20th century.

What is most worrying in this advancing specialization, however, is the notion that works may be chosen as representatives of a particular period or style. One has seen this happening with "early music" specialists: how one group will dig out third-rate French baroque cantatas - simply because that is their area of supposed competence - rather than play Bach.

The pressures towards the orchestras' retreat into their hinterland are, though, at least as much economic as artistic, and the argument that will always be used against more adventurous programming is the one drawn from box-office figures.

But that is not the only criterion to which orchestral managers are sensitive: if it were, their programmes would be even closer to those of the commercial operators, and Festival Hall patrons would be booked on classics every night of the week.

There are, then, other values. Why do they so conspicuously exclude the music of our own age?

Young and foolish

Heroin kills about 70 young people a year; alcohol, perhaps 1,000. In an earnestly researched report on the contradictions of official policy towards the problem, Brass Tacks (BBC2) examined two strands of the rope with which the country is allegedly hanging itself: the widespread illegal drinking by teenagers, and the Government's apparent indifference to health education in the area of alcohol abuse.

But on boiling flushed youngsters outside Liverpool's "fun pubs" on a Friday night, David Henshaw, the reporter, established that they were only as sober as some judges and that none of them was old enough to vote.

This was a fascinating glimpse into the brass new world of "alcohol academies", where the under-age law seems to have suffered a de facto derogation - where, indeed, 16-year-olds decline to enter certain pubs because these have been given over to 14-year-olds.

Drinks commercials increasingly flout the guidelines on appealing to the youth market: do the breweries realize that a substantial and growing proportion of their revenue derives from illegal transactions?

TELEVISION

Meanwhile, the bodies - voluntary and official - which are concerned with research and education have been effectively thwarted by Governmental neglect.

Mr Henshaw proved himself a dab hand at skewering the shifts and evasions of the DHSS, but it was hardly surprising that a Tory Government, with its traditional links with the brewing dynasties, might wish to soft-pedal the issue.

No opposition party has dared to suggest decriminalizing cannabis as an alternative to drink. It has been argued that the drug would be a safer means to oblivion for the dispirited youth - in Liverpool and elsewhere - and it has also been suggested that if its possession were no longer an offence, an engine, field, or conflict between young blacks and the police would disappear.

Would Open Space (BBC2) entertain this idea - or, indeed, any idea? This witless, muddling affair, made by the Njanigro Community Association, cast a dull eye over the history of police harassment in Notting Hill without mentioning that it is impossible to walk along All Saints' Road (home of the Mangrove restaurant) without being urged to purchase cannabis.

Black leaders naturally wish to appear respectable, but one would respect them more if they addressed themselves to the real issues.

Martin Cropper

If I seem to be playing an old tune, my excuse is that this is what the London orchestras continue to do: I return to the matter of the severe imbalance in orchestral programming at the Festival Hall and, now, no less at the Barbican.

daringly performing Malcolm Arnold's Tam O'Shanter Overture on the composer's birthday. Only the Philharmonia is presenting a recent work of substantial proportions, Berio's Sinfonia.

To take just the first three months of this season, from September to November, the number of works by living composers being played by the non-BBC orchestras in their own promoted concerts is four - or, on average, one per orchestra. As it happens, the Royal Philharmonic is doing no contemporary music at all, while the London Symphony makes up the deficit by offering two works: the ubiquitous Concerto de Aranjuez by Rodrigo and Circle Dance by the clarinetist Eddie Daniels, who is playing with the orchestra.

The London Philharmonic is

Now, one could argue that the present age is not as propitious for orchestral composition as, say, the 1880s were: I am not sure that is right, or even meaningful, but it could be argued. Yet if one widens the net and looks at what part of the orchestras' repertory was written during the past 70 years, an entire lifetime, the score is even more dismaying.

There is a decent amount of Russian music, including six works by Shostakovich. There is some representation of English music (perhaps there would have been more if these had not been the months also of the Britten/Tippett Festival put on by the London

Sinfonietta and the BBC Symphony Orchestra). But otherwise, of music composed since 1916, audiences will hear only odd works by Ravel, Barber, Strauss and Respighi.

It would be naive simply to state that this is wrong, and yet the situation is certainly a curious one. Why is it that Beethoven, Mendelssohn, Brahms and Mahler command orchestral programmes to the virtual or actual exclusion of Stravinsky, Berg, Bartok and Boulez?

One begs the question if one suggests that orchestral music in the 19th century was in some way

noticeably better. Why is there no one since the First World War, with the possible exception of Shostakovich, whose music is entering the repertory? Why does it seem that concert audiences are not only content with almost exclusively historical programming, but actually prefer it? Can one imagine a widespread literary sensibility incurious about anything outside the period from Jane Austen to Henry James?

But the present construction of the orchestral repertory raises other issues. The advance of "authentic" performance styles now makes it regrettably difficult for symphony

Full marks for enterprise, but must try harder

CONCERTS

Parke Ensemble October Gallery

There are some good intentions among the doings of the new Parke. But something is missing in the way of efficiency and practicality. On Wednesday night, for instance, a brass group was assembled to play in just one short Birwhistle piece, his Prologue.

More seriously, the performances sound under-rehearsed, and the choice of venue was unfortunate. The upper room at the October Gallery is appealingly informal, but its acoustics is a lot less inviting, and part of this

concert was practically destroyed by the noise from next door.

However, silence happily prevailed for the two Grange pieces. On This Bleak Hut and As It Was, both of them settings of poems by Edward Thomas, and both of them scored for solo voice with an ensemble that brought echoes of Pierrot Lunaire and of that work's progeny in the music of Webern and Maxwell Davies.

This was a little surprising, given that Grange's Variations, written for the Fires of London and played last week, is a score of such independent merit.

But I suspect the words in these two vocal pieces led the composer towards a more overtly expressionist style, perhaps particularly in As It

Was, where the slow interweavings of two bass clarinets and low piano suggest a darkness that the soprano tries to suppress in her even-toned declamation. Henry Wigold, both here and in Birwhistle's Cantata, was too score-bound and careful: this was more a preliminary reading than a performance.

David Aldred had worked both composers more completely into his voice, though there was strain in some of Grange's passion.

One hates to dampen enterprise, but it rather looks as though the Parke Ensemble ought to be giving fewer concerts with more thorough preparation. Then they might be useful.

Paul Griffiths

LPO/Litton Festival Hall

Eric Mason's programme note for Saint-Saens's Third Symphony, with its references to Liszt's deep admiration for the composer, got me thinking guiltily before this performance that perhaps this work often suffers from an unjust Press, probably largely because of its popularity. And it is easy to deride the work for the vulgarity of its finale, its appeal to audiences through sheer volume.

Yet are not Liszt, Berlioz, Wagner, or Messiaen loud and vulgar in places? Were they not also capable of writing sweetly memorable music with apparent facility? To both questions the answer is yes, but we tend to accept such things in the face of the whole achievement. So it should be with Saint-Saens.

His symphonic ingenuity was well served by the London Philharmonic Orchestra, mercifully restored to something approaching its best form after Friday night's disastrous episode with Carl

Davis. For that, much credit must go to the conductor here, Andrew Litton, whose recent work in this country can have done his career prospects no harm at all.

He secured a thoroughly dashing performance, with characterful - though always impeccably judged - solo contributions, as well as ensemble work that was often simply thrilling. He also managed to avoid excessive sentiment in the slow movements, and in the three faster ones showed impressive control.

Seldom can those piano scales in the scherzo, for instance, have twinkled quite so brightly. Meanwhile, at the organ, Thomas Trotter negotiated his prominent role with conspicuous dash, eliciting some distinctly 19th century French sounds from the mighty instrument at his command.

What had come before was rather different, to say the least, though Mozart was also capable of writing an easily memorable tune or two now and then. But few oboists could have matched the playing of the LPO's principal,

JAZZ

McCoy Tyner Ronnie Scott's Loose Tubes Logan Hall

No one who ventured abroad in London on Wednesday night could have been in much doubt about the current health of the jazz scene. At Ronnie Scott's, absorbed for the week into the Sobo Jazz Festival, a full house turned out to welcome McCoy Tyner, a pianist revered for his work with John Coltrane in the early 1960s.

Nor were there seats going begging a mile or so away in Bloomsbury, where Loose Tubes, a 21-piece orchestra of British jazz musicians, appeared for the second date of a national tour under the auspices of the Art Council's adventurous Contemporary Music Network.

Few jazz pianists of the last 25 years can have remained untouched by the incantatory two-chord vamp and restlessly voluble upper-register lines which Tyner devised to support Coltrane's celebrated spiritual quest, and all the elements of that style are on display during his current two-week season, for which he is accompanied by a sound bassist, Avery Sharpe, and a mercurially brilliant drummer, Louis Hayes.

After an hour in Tyner's company, the residual image is of his right hand disintegrating into a dancing blur while his left bounced shoulder-high off the ivory trampoline. Inevitably, though, the intensity of his younger days has proved difficult to sustain and what was once an attempt to reach some sort of musical catharsis now seems, when applied to the well-worn contours of Neal Hefti's "LT Darlin'", merely the product of an automatic reflex.

Loose Tubes have appeared so often in London this year that over-familiarity may be a danger for the critic, but it must be said that this was not one of their more memorable performances.

Apart from a thunderous ovation for Django Bates' varied and often bilarious "Accepting Suites from Strangers", lifted by Iain Ballamy's alto saxophone solo, the atmosphere seemed slightly tepid.

Richard Williams

THEATRE

The Secret Life of Cartoons Aldwych

The idea of a picture stepping out of its frame and taking possession of its creator is one of the archetypes of the horror industry; and, as a well-known writer in that field, Clive Barker could well have turned it to grisly account.

However, as the picture in question is an animated cartoon, Mr Barker has chosen to pursue the idea into comedy with dire and theatrically illiterate results.

On the day that Dick Coplan is fired by the studio, his creation, a sexually invincible six-foot rabbit called Resco, hounces into Dick's New York apartment and sets about seducing his wife.

The fact that we never learn why Dick was fired, nor why Resco moves in on him (loyalty, rivalry, or a studio purge on rabbits?) gives you some idea of what this play lacks in the way of basic nuts and bolts.

The first scene suggests various lines on which a comedy might develop: as an enactment of the couple's fantasies; as a satire on the cartoon business; as a stage equivalent of films combining human and cartoon characters.

One by one these alternatives expire, leaving you with a play whose only discernible purpose is to have a lot of funny things happening.

To that end, Mr Barker surrenders all claims to narrative consistency. For the sake of a passing giggle, the cartoon figures are given a free

This rabbit is no laughing matter



Drawing attention: Geoffrey Hughes and Derek Griffiths

range of louche winks and nudges in defiance of animated film etiquette (which means that their awful showbiz gags also have to be taken at face value).

The studio is run by a mouse tycoon, but with no attempt to follow up the idea of a whole-sale Disneyland takeover. And

no line is drawn between cartoon behaviour and human behaviour.

The humans either respond with an obligatory double-take and give in, or they start themselves acting like tap-dancing ducks and vaudeville mice.

Enter a duck-buster in pursuit of a sharp-witted duck

who arranges for his enemy to be yanked out of the window and spattered on the sidewalk. Being a cartoon, of course, he is back in no time with his gun still cocked.

Dick then discovers his wife, Lorraine, in bed with the rabbit and responds by following the hunter out of the window. Jealousy can lead almost anywhere, but hardly back into the apartment with no more than a few bruises.

Plot, in any case, has virtually disappeared by this time, and the production has moved into a zone of unmitigated comic trash, with Dexter the duck (Graham James) converting the bathroom into a star dressing room from which he stages mincing little dance numbers. Rosco (Derek Griffiths) in full flight rigged up as Scarlett O'Hara. And the landlady Mrs Steinberg going berserk with a machine gun.

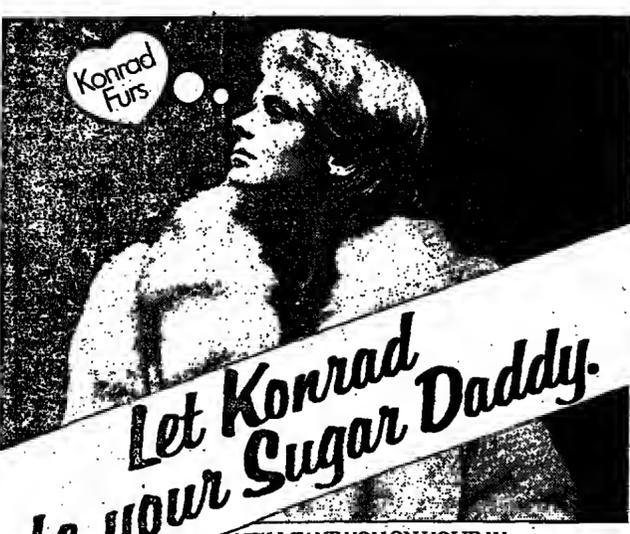
I am ashamed to waste your time in detailing this rubbish.

There is one glimpse of real comedy when Sergeant Beethoven of the police department arrives on the scene, stimulating Lorraine (Una Stubbs) to remark: "You are a pig, Beethoven and I hate your music", whereupon, once alone, Beethoven whips off his black shades revealing that he is indeed a pig in the pay of Mighty Mouse.

Factor Davies's production proceeds over the desert of thin ice with manic speed and energy, supported by frequent banks and glissandos on the Swansee line.

The evening has the virtue of precision: particularly in Mr Griffiths's split-second physical and vocal timing, and in the dance numbers involving Paul Robinson as a stage-struck delivery boy. In other respects this show is a disgrace.

Irving Wardle

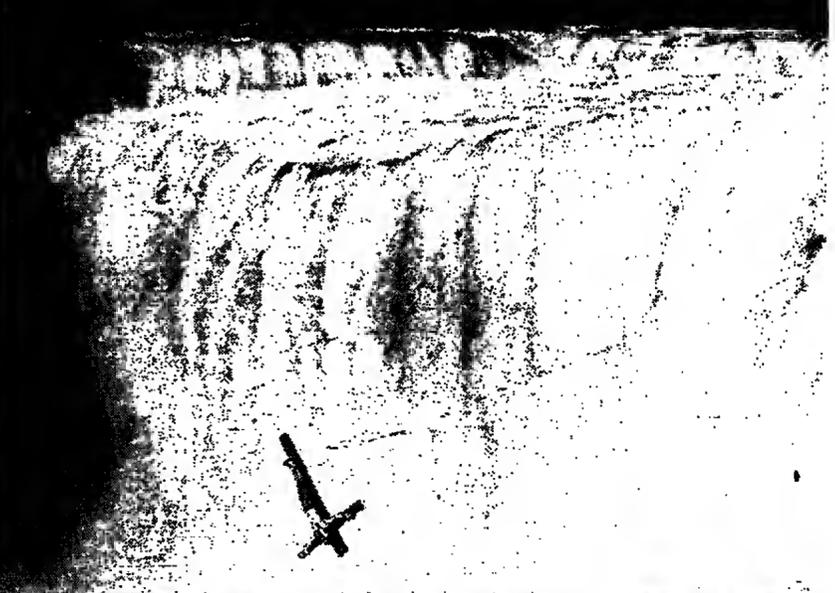


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SPECTRUM

Scarred by the lost generation

Twenty years ago a slag heap made by man descended on a school full of children and wiped out a generation.

Michael Watkins returned to Aberfan, where more than the landscape is seared

On October 21, 1966 face-workers on the morning shift at Merthyr Vale colliery were summarily ordered to the surface. No reason was given...

Gwyn Davies was on that shift. Twenty years later, he is a training officer. "When we got out of the cage, we were told that number 7 tip had slipped..."

"They split us into groups and we started digging. The women were already there, like stone they were, clawing at the filth..."

"There'd be a shout for a blanket and you might be passed an arm or a leg. We found three kiddies clinging to a teacher's dress..."

'Miners are a tough breed, but some of the lads broke down'

paint it just as it was, it's that clear to me. I'd just about had a bellyful. Some of those tips were 70 years of muck, the sun set behind them. I played on them as a kid."

When the dead were counted, there were 144, including 116 children aged between seven and 11 years. The cause of death given by the coroner was asphyxia and multiple injuries. Volunteers poured into Aberfan, 2,000 or so, to clear the sludge...



Today's reality: the streets of Aberfan, above, may look normal but a generation is missing

public sorrow and private grief. I have never held a dead child in my arms, so I do not know the truest meaning of grief. I cannot, from experience, assess the bitterness or the anger. Surely there must be anger, one needs to apportion blame? When battles turn into carnage, the field commanders are blamed: in earthquake or famine, God is held responsible. But you cannot blame God for the tragedy of Aberfan; or, if so, only obliquely, for the black monster above Pantglas school was unleashed by man. The Aberfan tribunal made that quite clear: "A terrifying tale of bungling ineptitude by many men charged with tasks for which they were totally unfitted, of failure to heed clear warnings..."

Twenty years on, the valley is remarkable only for its ordinariness; you could pass through on your way to Cardiff and never know. You cannot say that its streets are mean, they are no meaner than thousands of others; indeed the mountains lend distinction and power to the landscape, the pithead wheel applies a primal touch. It would have been beautiful before the Industrial Revolution. There are Silk Cut and Walls Ice Cream signs, a video club, a turf accountant and upon a wall, Ian Cuddy has scrawled a note to the effect that he was here. It is no Hampstead or Highgate, it is not a soft place; there is a calloused feel, for this is a working village. 620 men are down the pit. Things get done the hard way, the dirty way. There is a vengeful coal dust; the very smell of coal is in one's nostrils. But you would never



Yesterday's nightmare: a river of mud, left, buried the school and stunned the world

They had pretty names: Gwyneth, Antony, Glensy, Tydfil, Lynda, Peter. They'd be 27 or so had they lived; they might have gone down the pit, become solicitors or prisoners of conscience, who knows? It is a stiff haul up from the village, yet I could see fresh flowers on each grave.

Someone was arranging a posy for Cheryl who came from Moy

violence - we got experts to put our case. The tips have gone, but there's still a story to tell. Whatever we may believe about national unity, the Welsh are a race apart; they are not like the rest of us, they were here before the Anglo-Saxons. They are separate and they are used to sorrow; it has branded them with a strength and it has bound them together as a clan. For more than 100 years many of them have worked underground, isolated from safety, deprived of sunlight. News of disaster came regularly from these valleys: entombment by a fall; the silent, choking death by gas.

We have always known that miners died; it was part of the price of coal and, in our heartlessness, we accepted it. It was the miners' choice. But the children up in the schoolroom, saying their morning prayers, had no such choice.

There were also stories of after-effects: a mother dying of barbiturate poisoning, found clutching a photograph of her daughter killed in the slide. A distinguished American psychologist quoted that some children had told her: "We are not

going to school. If you go to the school you die". One press photograph of the tragedy showed a policeman carrying nine-year-old Susan Maybanks to safety; but for years she was terrified of the dark. Susan is now married; she sent a message, via the Rev Kenneth Hayes, who lost his elder son in 1966, that she would prefer not to talk about it, that she'd had enough.

There was a notice in the village newsletter Headzuzy announcing that the radio station Swansea Sound and BBC Wales TV were preparing items for the 20th anniversary of the disaster; it sought contributors willing to be interviewed. No one had come forward.

At Ynysowen infants' school Miss Mair Jones is head teacher, a teaching head teacher, she reminded. In 1966 she was at the nursery school, about a quarter of a mile from Pantglas. "With luck these children won't know about it, the village is a family, protecting its own. I simply know that in three years my school dropped three classes there are 98 children here today - by rights there should be 150 or more."

"My father was a miner, tips were a fact of life so we knew the danger. No, not many families left the valley, a few couldn't cope; but most parents sent their children back to school - that's what I admire most. I lost a lot of children - when you're a teacher they're all your children."

"Forget? How can we forget when people like you keep picking off the scabs?"

Did any good come from this slaughter of the innocents? "Yes," said Mr Moss, manager of Merthyr Vale colliery. "There's legislation about where we tip rubbish now, it's science-controlled, inspected regularly. I'll tell you this much: it could never happen again, not in this valley nor anywhere in South Wales."

The Rev Kenneth Hayes said: "We learnt to set a pattern for land-reclamation. We found a way to demonstrate effectively, without

'We have learnt to be silent - some of us'

Nicaragua is also helping to establish the sport in the Soviet Union. A team of students recently triumphed 3-0 in the first organized match ever staged in Moscow. "I might like it if I understood it," said Nikolai, a professor of agriculture, one of a handful of spectators. In his younger days Fidel Castro was a self-confessed fanatic and, one gathers, not a bad player. The game is extremely popular in Cuba, but it seems that the army team always dominates the competition. In Nicaragua fans also complain that the armed forces get first pick of the talent.

Denis, meanwhile, has pitched his last game of the season for Montevideo. He was doing well against Los Filis until he gave up three runs and was replaced by a substitute. Something more to grumble about down in Managua.

Pitching for ponches Nicaragua goes wild as the World Series brings the American baseball season to an exciting climax

It is a fair bet that Denis Martinez has more fans in Nicaragua than any of the Sandinista commanders. He was born there, in the town of Granada, but found fame and fortune as a baseball player in the United States.

Such is the passion of Nicaraguans for the game that was beseeched to them by the US Marines, who occupied their country between 1912 and 1933, that they happily skip the vitriolic denunciations of Yankee wickedness in the government-controlled press to check for news of their hero.

Both the country's main newspapers fill columns daily with the baseball scores from the US, and the excitement will be high tomorrow night as the New York Mets meet the Boston Red Sox in the World Series final. The Spanish translations of essential terms add to the pleasure of trying to follow things from Managua. Senior Martinez, for instance, is celebrated as a lanzador (pitcher) with the Montevideo Expos, and though some say his throwing arm is not what it used to be he still gets his fair share of ponche (strike-outs).

There is scarcely a corner of Nicaragua where you will not find some sort of a baseball field. It once came across a soldier from a counter-insurgency battalion patrolling with a bat and a fielder's glove hanging from his equipment.

It is not surprising that an attempt to emulate the "ping pong diplomacy", which helped draw the US and China together, has begun, using this shared love of baseball. The Nicaraguan national team is in California for a series of exhibition games. "Bats not bombs" is the organizers' slogan.

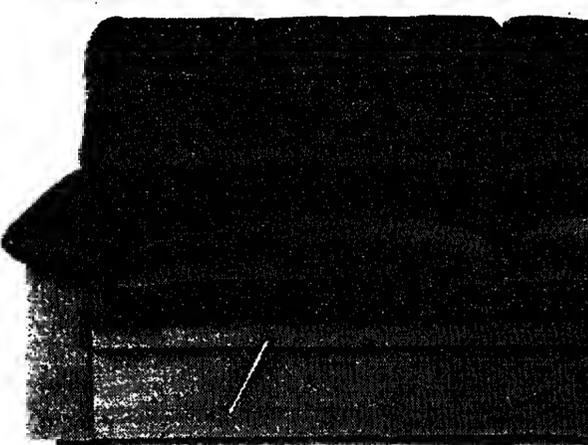
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A skate to the sunny side of the street

The brief demonstration is over. Robin Cousins bows to his audience of one and moves away from the piano where sits his friend and voice-trainer, New York composer Paul Katz. "A year ago the only singing I was doing was in the showers," he admits. Times have changed, however, for the former Olympic champion, who trades skates for sneakers this Sunday evening to perform a song-and-dance act in the Adelphi Theatre's showbiz benefit against drugs, The Just Say No Show.

His is no flash-in-the-pan musical talent. Cousins surprised audiences with his stage debut, a novelty turn in the Shaftesbury Avenue Night Of A Hundred Stars spectacular earlier this year. At that point, his training had only just

begun - something to do while a leg injury kept him off the ice.

Since then he has been turning down musicals in New York and the West End, the surprisingly powerful voice meanwhile becoming "more controlled" under the guidance of his tutor. "This could be another Gene Kelly - and he thinks so too: don't let him make you think he doesn't," Katz says, glancing at his demurring protégé.

It's an interesting prospect for the athlete who had us up at all hours, beards in mouth, with the giant leaps and triple toe-loops of his amateur days. This winter's professional world championships will see the end of another era. "I'm retiring from professional competition on December



Robin Cousins: belting it out

20," he says, adding conspiratorially, "and that's something even my mother doesn't know I'm doing yet."

The announcement is sure to bring more theatrical agents knocking at his door, but Cousins is steadfastly loyal to his first calling. "It's not another career, I'm not going to give up skating for singing.

Having lived in the Big Apple for nearly four years, he looks comfortable in the American "uniform" of blue-jeans-and-bomber-jacket, and, in the words of Paul Katz, is becoming quite good at "belting it out like a New Yorker."

It's a big leap from choir practice at the age of 12, but Cousins finds he has the discipline to apply himself, whatever the field: "Given time and training, you can do anything. You try and equate it with something you know. This is still a question of placement, your physical presence on stage, only you are conscious of what your mouth is doing as well as your feet."

"You're in front of an audience whether you're skating or not. Of course, anyone who says they're not scared before they go on stage has to

be either a liar or no good." But it's exhilaration more than fear. "Once a ham, always a ham," he says with a shrug.

And when the ice finally cracks, it's likely to be an easy transition to the sunny side of the street. "My only concern is that I be chosen because of what I can do rather than who I am," he says. "I'm just lucky to have been in one of those sports that happens to have an after-life - and I think the after-life has actually been better."

Stephanie Billen

The Just Say No Show is at the Adelphi Theatre, London, on Sunday at 7.30pm. Tickets are £15, £35 and £70, inclusive of donation to SODA (Standing Conference on Drug Abuse) from First Call (01-240 7200)

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1082

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Clues include: 1 Tents (6), 2 Tentative (5), 3 French Indo-China (7), 4 Rough cider (7), 5 Test (5), 6 Indian ruler (5), 7 Exhausted (4,3), 8 Murrumbidgee (3), 9 Old Persian language (5), 10 Projected (6), 11 Automobile (3), 12 Superficial appearance (6), 13 Physical damage (6), 14 Knock unconscious (4), 15 Gold-bearing Magnet (8), 16 Serenely (6), 17 Prairie wolf (6), 18 Table-top (4,4), 19 Scramble (4), 20 Make secure (6), 21 Prisoner (6), 22 Tin (3), 23 Eight note interval (6), 24 Mini racing car (2,4), 25 Shy (7), 26 Muslim veil (7), 27 Crowd scene actor (5), 28 1/16th pound (5), 29 Communion table (5).

SOLUTIONS TO NO 1081: ACROSS: 1 Daughter-in-law 9 Lee 10 Neighbour 11 Droll 13 Habitude 16 Deserts 19 Onie 22 Slowcoach 24 Mob 25 Schadenfreude DOWN: 1 Added 2 Tuxedo 3 Chandler 4 Zenith 5 High 6 All-out 7 Sverre 12 Rue 14 Brochure 15 UHT 16 Dessert 17 Southe 18 Spawns 20 Armour 21 Emblem 23 Cads

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FRIDAY PAGE

House husbands to a man

Since the Denis Thatcher lampoons began the spouses of woman MPs have worn a wary look. As Parliament resumes, Toby Young reports on the pressures of having a wife in the House

When junior health minister Edwina Currie castigated northerners for drinking too much beer and smoking too many cigarettes, she failed to mention that she is married to a perfect example of just such a person.

Mr Currie's lifestyle often contradicts his wife's political image, though he claims to know what he was letting himself in for when she popped the question.

What he didn't anticipate, however, was what his life would be perceived to be like. Ever since Mrs Thatcher arrived at number 10, it has become impossible for the husbands of Westminster's leading ladies to withstand the obvious comparison to dear Denis.

When the BBC asked the Curries if they would appear in an episode of The Other Half, the couple saw it as a good opportunity to dispel Ray's image as one of Westminster's hen-pecked husbands.

Unfortunately, the plan misfired. Ray was shown carrying Edwina's handbag at an election victory party. The Times's television critic commented: "Despite their joint protestations to the contrary, he appeared to be the kind of mild and introverted husband who is content to stay firmly in the background."

Alexander Ward Lyoo suffered a similar experience when his wife, Clare Short, became the Labour MP for Birmingham Ladywood in 1983. The day Clare won her place in Westminster was the day he lost the seat in York that he had held for 16 years.

He was enormously generous in not resenting my being in the House," says Clare, "but there were some very cruel press reports which did hurt."

Even when their husbands have full-time jobs, however, Westminster women have to be particularly sensitive about their husbands. Angela Rumbold, the education minister, must now be ruing the day she announced that her idea of Mr Right was Clint Eastwood.

Lynda Chalker, the Minister for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, has an altogether more tactful approach. Despite being the first woman to become leader of the Greater London Young Conservatives, Mrs Chalker did not run for the chairmanship of the National Young Conservatives because her husband, Eric Chalker, had done so and had twice failed.

John Barnes, though, was different. Though not exactly Clint Eastwood, he did have some grasp of her political responsibilities. They met at a Conservative Association dinner in the spring of 1984.

John Barnes, though, was different. Though not exactly Clint Eastwood, he did have some grasp of her political responsibilities. They met at a Conservative Association dinner in the spring of 1984.

The same applies to John Barnes, who became Mr Sally Oppenheim in 1984. After her husband Henry died in 1980, Mrs Oppenheim found herself the centre of a good deal of



Edwina and Ray Currie: she offers nutritional advice to the North while he drinks best bitter and carries her handbag



Clive Lauda, Lynda Chalker: not Lynda Lauda



Sally Oppenheim, John Barnes: both suffer from "Wednesday-itis"



Harriet Harman, Jack Dromey: now he's left holding the baby



Angela and John Rumbold: can he ever compete with Clint Eastwood?

male attention. Most of them, however, had little or no idea of what being a Westminster husband involved.

Sally Oppenheim, like Linda Chalker, wasn't prepared to forsake the name by which she had become politically known. She decided on the double-barrelled solution, though instead of Barnes-Oppenheim she opted for Oppenheim-Barnes.

One of the problems John Barnes experiences in being a House Husband is that the gridding Westminster agenda leaves him very little time with his new wife during the parliamentary session.

missile components factory in Gloucestershire. The romance progressed from missiles to mistletoe, and they were married a few months later.

John Barnes, though, was different. Though not exactly Clint Eastwood, he did have some grasp of her political responsibilities.

It wasn't quite love at first sight," he observed. "It took me at least an hour to become totally besotted."

gets back before Thursday evening. They both suffer from what Barnes calls "Wednesday-itis".

His problems are nothing, however, compared to those of Jack Dromey, the husband of the Labour member for Peckham, Harriet Harman.

Of course, in this respect, the problems of being married to a woman MP may be little different from those of any man hitched to a career

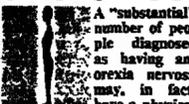
woman. John Barnes admits to a liking for career women in general, and is noted for promoting bright young ladies in his company.

However, it is inevitable that the stereotyping of Westminster husbands as being in the Denis Thatcher mould will place an additional strain on marriages already fraught with career competition.

Of course, in this respect, the problems of being married to a woman MP may be little different from those of any man hitched to a career

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Hope for anorexics



A "substantial" number of people diagnosed as having anorexia nervosa may, in fact, have a physical disorder which can be treated relatively simply.

retrospect this fitted in well with the types of symptoms the patients had - vomiting and difficulty in swallowing, for example.

The study also found that in the vast majority of other "anorexics" investigated, food did not pass through the stomach into the intestine as quickly as it would normally, and that drugs could help correct this.

The researchers use used cod liver oil because it is high in the polyunsaturated fatty acid eicosapentaenoic acid, which is thought to be the active ingredient.

Oily cure for heart disease?

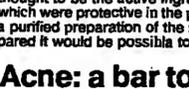


A regular dietary supplement of fish oil could eventually prove an effective way of preventing heart disease.

Just last year, doctors in the Netherlands showed that eating as little as two fish dishes a week could cut the risk of a fatal heart attack by half.

The researchers use used cod liver oil because it is high in the polyunsaturated fatty acid eicosapentaenoic acid, which is thought to be the active ingredient.

Acne: a bar to jobhunters

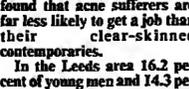


Old prejudices run deep. A two-year study by dermatologists at Leeds General Infirmary has found that acne sufferers are far less likely to get a job than their clear-skinned contemporaries.

Yet acne can be treated. The latest drugs and therapies won't cure everyone with the condition but they will bring about an improvement.

Writing in the British Journal of Dermatology, he says: "There is no reason why, in 1986, all acne patients should not respond well to available therapy."

Check at your fingertips



Having your blood pressure measured could soon be as simple as pointing a finger.

doctors and nurses at the St John's Health Centre in Woking have found that a sphygmomanometer which is attached to a tiny finger cuff will measure blood pressure just as accurately as those conventional blood pressure gauges where the cuff is put round the arm.

manometer will work on any finger; a cuff squeezes the arteries and a pulse detector provides the blood pressure, reading on a digital read out.

The penalty of mercy

The Chief Justice of California tells why she faces a poll defeat



Rose Bird: bye bye?

If I wear a low-cut gown I can get on the front page of the newspapers. If I want to talk about state funding for the trial courts, I can't get on the front page.

Rose Bird, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of California, is a tall, extremely handsome woman. She dresses with panache, a flair that falls on the tasteful side of Krystle Carrington.

The Honorable Rose Elizabeth Bird, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of California, is, barring a miracle, about to be booted out of office by the voters of that state on Tuesday, November 4, after nine years in office.

and managed by a former Dukmejian campaign manager, Bill Roberts; and Californians to Defeat Rose Bird, based in Orange County.

My own view is that, rather than talk in terms of marketing and making slick ads or making counter-charges against other people, we have something of value here: we have a remarkable institution here, an independent judiciary we must protect.

Two other justices stand for re-election alongside Bird but neither of them has drawn anything like the flak she has attracted. "I happen to be a younger woman although I am middle-aged," says the Chief Justice, who is 49 but looks more like 40.

Rose Bird believes in keeping her private life private, she says. If the press want to interview her in her chambers, that's fine. If they want to photograph her working out, baking bread, that's not.

It's not that I think I have a messianic role in history or a corner on the truth. I've often said that anyone who has power within our democratic society has to use it with grace and understand that your view of life is simply that - a perception and not the truth.

These are intensely conservative times, even in California. "The problem is that you have a society that is in transition," says the Chief Justice in her own defence.

These are intensely conservative times, even in California. "The problem is that you have a society that is in transition," says the Chief Justice in her own defence.

The campaign against her has been a multi-million dollar marathon, masterminded by two key groups rooted in professional political consultancy firms: the Crime Victims for Court Reform based on the chic, affluent Westwood area of Los Angeles

There are special evenings for fathers, and you will be

Deirdre Macdonald © Times Newspapers Ltd 1986

Advertisement for 'A la carte' magazine, featuring a cover image and promotional text.

Advertisement for 'The penalty of mercy' article, featuring a portrait of Rose Bird and text.

Advertisement for Humana Hospital Wellington, featuring a teddy bear illustration and text.

Pitching for ponches... ne street... putting on... 2,000 to be n tomorrow

THE TIMES DIARY

Rose growers association

So sure are Labour's PR men that everything is coming up roses for them that they are about to start lecturing others on the art of image-messaging. Next month Labour's director of communications, Peter Mandelson, and Ken Livingstone are to speak at a seminar at the British Academy of Film and Television Arts in Piccadilly. The union-sponsored presentation, on trade unions' and campaigning organizations' use of video and TV, is organized by Smith Bundy Videos, one of a low-profile group of media professionals now advising Labour. Tickets are going for £172.50. Although no agency has yet been named to handle Labour's general election account, other members of the "shadow communications agency" — such as Boase Massimi Pollitt, who handled the GLC account, and Yellowhammer, who work for Greenpeace — are being canvassed.

Heal thyself

The Legionnaires' disease bacterium has breached the portals of its leading enemy. The organism was discovered last week in the hot water system of the London headquarters of the Department of Health and Social Security. "During a routine check it was found that a thermostat in one of the four tanks had failed and the temperature had dropped, which encouraged the bacteria," admitted a spokesman. But he said: "There was never any danger." The temperature was immediately boosted and, as a "double precaution", the water was chlorinated over the weekend.

One dish that the Queen was not offered in her mammoth meal with the Chinese president was an exclusive Chinese currier called Kalung. The pearl-grey eggs from the giant sturgeon caught in the Amur river are for export only. And no exceptions.

Differential

For his 60th birthday party tomorrow night Lord Montagu of Beaulieu is insisting that the thousand or so guests wear fancy dress. Gorilla suits and Superman tights are banned, however, for the theme — Montagu being a motor fanatic — is "100 years of the motor car". The invitations even look like driving licence applications. Tory MP Robert Key has borrowed some overalls from his local garage and is going as a mechanic with his wife as fitter's mate. "I expect lots of traffic wardens and beletsa beacons," Montagu told me from — where else? — the Motor Show.

BARRY FANTONI



Scaled down

The American sci-fi series V, about a technologically advanced race of lizards from another planet who take control of the earth, has proved popular with South African television viewers. Five of its 18 episodes were screened at the prime time 9 pm slot on Saturdays until, with little warning, the state-controlled South African Broadcasting Corporation switched V to a late-night slot with the episodes running on consecutive nights, as if to get it over with. There is speculation that the SABC was worried about the subversive influence of the series, in which the heroes are resistance fighters struggling against the tyrannical minority rule of an alien race.

Ads-Lib

In a display of party purity, Liberal News apparatuses have launched a version of Yellow Pages. Liberal-minded businesses can advertise their services in the News with the aim of creating the political equivalent of The Good Food Guide. This, says a News spokesman, gets round that terrible worry of doing business with someone whose politics one does not know.

Matthew Parris, the new host of Weekend World, is beginning to understand the position he now holds in public life. Children at a Putney primary school have written asking him to forward their birthday card to Rosalind Dahl.

Great Wen

More from the inimitable Guide to Great Britain, the Chinese volume on life in this country, whose contents I first brought to your notice yesterday. The Guide has London as a city beset by pollution problems. These are due, it says, to a combination of marsh mist sweeping in from the east and "the citizen's love of open smoke fires", the combination of which means that he can seldom see a yard in front of him.

In the 19th century the shape and size of cities was profoundly influenced by the railways. In our time cars and motorways are working further changes. But what will the 21st-century city be like? What powerful new technologies or shifts in values are over the horizon, promising to reform once again where and how we live?

The answers to these questions are being actively sought by the Urban Affairs Group of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development. Preliminary studies have been made and will be reported to the Paris-based group today, when ministers from 20 countries, including our own John Patten, Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs, will meet.

For countries such as Britain, Japan and The Netherlands, where people are thick on the ground and predominantly town-living, failure to recognize important trends could be both uncomfortable and costly of scarce resources. Even in the United States, despite the vastness of the plains, the people of the great west stretching from Boston to Washington in the east, and from San Francisco to San Diego in the west, face conditions comparable with those in Europe or Japan.

Having identified dominant economic, social and technological changes, the Urban Affairs Group will ask what effects they are likely to have on buildings,

Shaping up to the city of the future by Terence Bendixson

transport and land use — the "pros" of urban life. Changes in human values, such as the present shift to healthier eating and taking exercise, or the deregulation ushered in by Mrs Thatcher, are the hardest to forecast, but according to John Zetter, head of the OECD urban division, the forces that have been causing the populations of old cities to fall and that of towns up to 100 miles away to expand are by no means exhausted.

The replacement of satanic mills by small hi-tech factories (and even working from home by computer) are one factor in this shift. The new firms do not have to locate themselves within a busy ride of thousands of workers. Their managers can choose to settle in peaceful country towns, or even mansions set in parkland, and rely on at least some of their

colleagues to drive perhaps 40 or 50 miles to work. Growth in Cirencester, Cambridge or Kidderminster, and decline in London or Birmingham, tend to follow. Urban geographers describe this type of regrouping as "deconcentration". Its results are not suburban sprawl of the kind that spread across Middlesex in the 1930s but the evolution of the city into a constellation of free-standing towns in open country.

Zetter points to the growing numbers of elderly people in Europe and Japan as another factor in shaping the city of the future. He sees them creating pressure for cities that are greener, quieter and prettier. More parks, planting of trees in streets, measures to reduce traffic dangers, sport and social clubs will all be in demand.

George Gilder on the new impetus for a British hi-tech brain drain

Silicon Valley's tax allure

The Reagan administration is about to sign a tax reform bringing the top rate to 28 per cent on individuals and small businesses and 34 per cent on corporations. Rather than increasing tax benefits for conventional capital formation, it removes the investment tax credit. Major benefits go to poor families, 6 million of which will be removed from the tax rolls entirely.



Retiring Old Gent (who had been evading the Income-tax for years, and been 'brought to book' at last. 'WELL, I CAN JUST MANAGE IT THIS TIME; BUT LOOK HERE, YOU MUST INFORM HER MAJESTY THAT IN FUTURE, 'FO' MY WORD, SHE REALLY MUSTN'T COUNT ON ME AS A SOURCE OF INCOME')

As a result, many Americans expect the US economy to become less competitive. Echoing the 1970s message of Jean-Jacques Servan-Schreiber's *Le Defi Americain*, they say the new technologies demand more government guidance and aid rather than less. They point to similar European programmes of state aid; they cite the current slump in Silicon Valley and predict a steady decline in America's international hi-tech position.

These prophecies drastically misread the prospects of the new information age. The pace of progress in computers is on the verge of a vast acceleration. In the last few years, scores of firms in the US have introduced computer products that manipulate symbols, deal with uncertainty, use rules and inferences to solve practical problems, and simulate human intelligence.

To understand the significance of this, imagine that you had to solve all your daily problems by mathematics, using a calculator or slide rule. Essentially, the computer industry has long been limited to similarly inflexible tools. Now computers can address the real world directly, using common sense or expert logic to solve problems.

A second major breakthrough is the silicon compiler. Here, imagine that all the books in the world had to be written by printers. This has been the situation in the computer industry; to author a chip, you essentially had to own a semiconductor manufacturing plant. Today any computer-literate person with a \$50,000 workstation can author a major new integrated circuit precisely adapted to his needs.

The third key breakthrough is the widespread replacement of the long-cherished Von Neumann computer architecture with its separate memory and central processing unit by the parallel multiprocessor. To comprehend this change, imagine that all the operations of a giant firm like General Motors took place in one room. Workers queued up end-

lessly carrying various components — from carburetors to hubcaps — and bearing detailed instructions on how to assemble them. Most of the time the rest of the company would lie completely inert. Parallel processing allows a computer to operate like a real General Motors, with various operations occurring simultaneously throughout the company.

The chief effect of these converging technologies can be summed up in a hoary cliché: Knowledge is power. The things that no longer confer power — or radically less than before — include control over natural resources, territory, military manpower, national taxes, trade surpluses and national currencies.

The most important immediate effect, already evident, is a drastic decline in the value of natural resources. A computer chip is made of sand, the most common substance on the face of the earth. While pots and pans are 80 per cent raw materials and automobiles 40 per cent raw materials, an integrated circuit is less than 2

per cent raw materials. Within five years, a few pounds of fiber optic cable, also made essentially of sand, will carry as much information as a ton of copper. In the past, the domination of particular regions also imparted great political and economic power. Today not only are the natural resources under the ground rapidly declining in value, but the companies and capital above the ground can rapidly leave. Capital markets are now global; funds can move around the world, rust down fiber optic cables and bounce off satellites, at near the speed of light. People — scientists and entrepreneurs — can leave at the speed of a 747, or even a Concorde. Companies can move in weeks. The balance of power in the world has shifted massively against the state and in favour of the individual.

So the new American challenge is the tax reform lowering the top federal rate to 28 per cent on all individuals and small businesses. Unless other countries lower their own rates, this reform will lure

Robert Elegant looks beyond Deng's reforms to the challenge to the nation's pride

China: now for the real leap

is towards authoritarianism. However, authority is being dispersed, and is less intrusive, as it was in the days of the imperial dynasties which based their rule on the moral teachings of Confucius. Then, it was said, "Heaven is high, and the Emperor is far away." And so, increasingly, it can be said today.

Despite those caveats, China's transformation is the most important event that has occurred in Asia — perhaps the world — in the latter part of the 20th century. Maoism rested upon two pillars of belief: that China could become a Marxist paradise through self-abnegating mass labour and could inspire and incite victorious anti-capitalist revolutions throughout the world.

The first illusion shattered against intractable economic reality and against human nature, whose existence the Chinese leaders now acknowledge. The failure of North Vietnam to conquer the South through revolutionary guerrilla action did for the second. When Mao preached worldwide people's revolution, he did not have in mind the conventional armoured invasion that finally

destroyed the Saigon regime. Rejection of Maoism manifests itself in many, varied, forms: Foreign investment and foreign instruction are so ardently desired that earlier this month the authorities made "opening to the outside world" a cardinal tenet of their policies.

Apparently, minor, but a significant symbol of the break with the past, is the recent order to halt the simplification of the traditional Chinese writing. That simplification, it is now acknowledged, led to errors and confusion.

Despite the Communist Party's continued primacy, the resolution that crowned the recent plenary session of the central committee again emphasized that the country must be ruled by law, not by the whims of its leaders.

Egalitarianism, meaning equal pay for unequal work, is now denounced as economically and morally counter-productive. Instead, higher wages and bonuses are offered for superior performance. Agriculture — its basic unit again the old family village — and now much of industry operate on a "responsibility system", meaning that individual enterprises

No one disputes that the future of the city and the future of the car are intertwined. The continued dominance of the personal capsule seems assured, though rush hours are likely to be subsided by continuous heavy traffic, while the Japanese, who foresee worsening competition for parking space, are dreaming of a James Bond vehicle that at journey's end would shrink to the size of a suitcase as the flick of a switch. (Bicycle riders will say that this transport has already been invented.)

The OECD study is unlikely to venture into such flights of fancy and is almost certain to put weight on the revival going on in urban railways and the prospects for buses as they shrink and become more comfortable.

The winding up of the metropolitan county councils in Britain and the push given by the Conservatives to deregulation in town planning has brought a great decline in the effort going into long-term urban planning. Work of this kind is now largely confined to about four universities and the Transport and Road Research Laboratory.

The OECD study should thus be of considerable interest to Britons, the most urban of all Western peoples. At the last count, seven out of ten of us lived in towns with 50,000 or more inhabitants.

Terence Bendixson is the author of *Instead of Cars* (Penguin).

workers and capital, entrepreneurs and engineers, scientists and technicians from around the world to America.

For the last 50 years, most of the world's more ambitious workers and entrepreneurs faced marginal tax rates well over 50 per cent. But we are now discovering that high tax rates do not redistribute income; they redistribute taxpayers: from taxable activities to untaxed leisure and work in the underground economy, from factories and offices to foreign beaches and golf courses, from productive investments to hoards of gold and land and collectibles. Most of all, high tax rates have redistributed entrepreneurs from around the world to the United States and other relatively open and low tax environments.

All over the world, with the exception of some parts of capitalist Asia, high tax rates are now in effect. Everywhere people have a greater incentive to hide income than to earn it. The only new exception is the United States. In the US, when the new tax law goes into effect in 1988, leading workers and entrepreneurs will have double the incentive to work as to shirk; double the incentive to earn money as to avoid taxation. This is a radical and dramatic breakthrough and it will force a response from all the other countries in the world.

The price of government is summed up in its tax rates. Governments compete for a share of the global tax base. They have to compete against non-taxable forms of income, from leisure to barter. They have to compete for that elite of productive and inventive men and women who contribute most to the global economy and tax base.

These key producers are disproportionately British, and British accents ring out all over Silicon Valley today. But entrepreneurs from all high-tax countries are increasingly willing to shop around the world for the most favourable places to make their taxable contributions. With the 747 and Apex fares they do not even have to leave their homes and families for long periods.

Entrepreneurs, scientists and workers from around the globe are already coming to America in huge numbers. Immigrants are already absolutely critical to the success of American high technology. Investors from around the globe are already sending their funds to the US in great volumes. But you haven't seen anything yet.

most look to their own losses and, above all, their own profits.

Beyond these changes, there for all to see, lies the likelihood of the most sweeping intellectual change in the 2,000 years since China became a unitary empire. Deng Xiaoping, the paramount leader, has not only cast aside most of the paraphernalia of the oppressive Marxist-Leninist state but is encouraging the people to re-examine their essential nature and China's place in the world. He wants the Chinese to see themselves not as a uniquely superior civilization and race, as they have for centuries, but as one nation, however populous and great, among many other equal nations.

The argument was recently stated by Yan Jiaqi, director of China's official think tank. He said that only when the people had shaken off Mao's view of the country as the world's cultural centre and powerhouse of revolution would it truly progress. But when they did free their minds and energies from the bonds of chauvinistic arrogance, the prospect could be breathtaking.

Japan, which was unhampered by such a rigid habit of mind, has built the world's most dynamic economy within 40 years. And China's natural and human resources dwarf Japan's many times. Excessive optimism is out of place because of China's enormous size, its complex heterogeneity and, above all, its poverty. Nonetheless, I wonder what it can accomplish when it concentrates its talents and its strength on attaining pragmatic goals.

Robert Elegant's latest novel, *White Sun, Red Star*, was published earlier this month by Hamish Hamilton.

David Watt Don't write off the Alliance

At the end of the party conference season, the consensus of comment appears to proclaim something like this: Conservatives and Labour had "good" conferences, the SDP a moderate one and the Liberals a disaster. Kinnoch has established himself as a credible leader but may have lost the election on the defence issue; Mrs Thatcher's unpopularity is a drawback to the Conservatives but Saatchi and Saatchi can probably write her personality out of the election script as easily as they wrote it in; the Alliance has once again been "marginalized", which helps the Tories; the economy looks healthy and Mrs Thatcher intends to call an election in 1987.

Each of these propositions looks superficially plausible by itself but the total picture that emerges feels wrong. We are invited to believe what both Labour and Conservatives would like us to believe (and, to do them justice, probably believe themselves); namely that the election will effectively be a two-horse race again. Further, the more, because the Tories had the most enduring impression of confidence. The odds are therefore supposed to be slightly in favour of a Thatcher third term.

I do not believe it is nearly as straightforward as that — and a closer look at the component parts of the jigsaw will reveal why. Let us take the conferences themselves as our starting point. Nobody need waste any time arguing that the Alliance is in very good shape after Eastbourne. It isn't. Whatever may become of arms control after Reykjavik, the impression of shambolic disunity within the Alliance will endure. But if Eastbourne was calamitous, that does not necessarily make major parties in the last month as flawed in a complementary fashion. Labour addresses the questions that are worrying people but offers jejune and implausible answers to them; the Conservatives claim to have solved all the problems, except the ones most of us are actually interested in and worried about. Of these two postures the Labour one looks marginally less offputting, but not much. Hence my own belief that it is far too early to write off the Alliance parties. If they can achieve some spectacular act of reconciliation on the nuclear front, so much the better, but even without it the logic that has brought the Alliance into being and kept it going in fairly unpromising times still applies: the more violently the Labour and Conservative parties attack each other, the more unattractive to the uncommitted voter they and their mutual obsession become.

There may still be more time for this process to work than it is fashionable to suppose. I do not believe that Mrs Thatcher or Lord Whitclaw, both cautious in such matters, will feel happy about an election unless they are well ahead in the opinion polls, and it is by no means certain that this condition will be fulfilled in 1987.

If I am right about all this, the impressions given by the two major parties in the last month are flawed in a complementary fashion. Labour addresses the questions that are worrying people but offers jejune and implausible answers to them; the Conservatives claim to have solved all the problems, except the ones most of us are actually interested in and worried about. Of these two postures the Labour one looks marginally less offputting, but not much. Hence my own belief that it is far too early to write off the Alliance parties. If they can achieve some spectacular act of reconciliation on the nuclear front, so much the better, but even without it the logic that has brought the Alliance into being and kept it going in fairly unpromising times still applies: the more violently the Labour and Conservative parties attack each other, the more unattractive to the uncommitted voter they and their mutual obsession become.

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moreover... Miles Kington

Cycle clips from a royal progress

The state visit of Sir Alastair Burnet to China entered its fifth day yesterday. He arrived in the ancient city of Chung Peng in time to take the salute at the customary rush hour ridepast of 150,000 cyclists: later he inspected the crack cyclists of the Golden Blossom Computers, who can do speeds of up to 30mph to get to the office on time.

Sir Alastair, looking resplendent in the ceremonial grey suit which is his uniform as Interviewer Royal, appeared visibly moved as officials told him of the historic Great Pedal across China. Thirty-five years ago, the small army of bicyclists had fought their way across the country to topple the corrupt regime of Chiang Kai-shek. Yesterday Sir Alastair laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Puncture, and easily fought back a tear as he was told that he was the first ITN commentator who had ever done so.

One hundred journalists from Sir Alastair on this historic journey to a nation which believes that he is the heir to the British throne, a belief shared by many of the British public. It has been a triumphant journey. At every stop, vast crowds have turned out to see the man they have christened Lord of the News, and he has greeted him with cries of: "Welcome, Oh Sir Alastair! Where's Princess Diana then? See you again after the break!" Radiant, splendid, themum — these are just some of the adjectives that have been showered on him by troops of schoolchildren dressed up as which, the Chinese believe, depicts the Royal Family at home.

Last night, at a state dinner in his honour, Sir Alastair provided a moment of light relief from protocol as the clock struck the hour. He instinctively grasped the state microphone and announced: "Here is the news at ten. The failure of the Russians, a British fire engine is blown out to El Salvador. And the fax in Bristol who has learned to drive a bus. But first, exclusive pictures of me live from China."

This same prospectus that has left the government trailing in the opinion polls. The floating voter does not necessarily have the same criteria of success as the Prime Minister, the Chancellor and their colleagues. Where they see a triumphant revolution, he sees horrendous unemployment, soaring housing and high interest rates; he gnashes his teeth over hospital waiting lists and rundown state schools and poor public services. When they reassure him that they are now trying to attend to these as well, he is inclined to say: "What on earth have you been doing these last seven years, then?"

This is where the Thatcher factor comes in, for the honest answer to the question is: "We have been busy giving the things you are concerned about a lower priority than issues, such as inflation and the control of public expenditure, that we have regarded as central, believing that if we got those right everything else would come right as well." Thatcher is the embodiment of this reply and her "uncaring" image reflects people's impatience with it.

If she were removed, the admen's plan for convincing us that everything will now get better might have a chance. That is why there was such an obvious attempt at Bournemouth to do the next best thing, namely to bring others forward into the limelight and to soften her image. But it is a hopeless task. So long as she is leader, Mrs Thatcher is the Conservative Party, and while that is the case the Conservative task of winning the election is an uphill one.

If I am right about all this, the impressions given by the two major parties in the last month are flawed in a complementary fashion. Labour addresses the questions that are worrying people but offers jejune and implausible answers to them; the Conservatives claim to have solved all the problems, except the ones most of us are actually interested in and worried about. Of these two postures the Labour one looks marginally less offputting, but not much. Hence my own belief that it is far too early to write off the Alliance parties. If they can achieve some spectacular act of reconciliation on the nuclear front, so much the better, but even without it the logic that has brought the Alliance into being and kept it going in fairly unpromising times still applies: the more violently the Labour and Conservative parties attack each other, the more unattractive to the uncommitted voter they and their mutual obsession become.

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But the visit has not been all junketing and fun. It is about doing business for Britain as well. And after the dinner many lucky diners queued to buy a signed copy of Sir Alastair's new book. Later he held secret talks with officials at which he discussed how his books might be put on sale throughout China. The officials are said to have smiled and looked inscrutable.

Sir Alastair has also become the first Interviewer Royal ever to set foot on the Great Wall of China, which is said, though erroneously, to be the only man-made object on earth visible from the moon. The Chinese, as usual, have a proverb on the subject: "Whatever the truth of this, you can see the moon from the Great Wall of China, and from everywhere else in China too. And the sun, come to that." Here Sir Alastair signed an historic agreement under which he promises, when he returns to Britain, to interview Prince Charles and Princess Diana in Chinese, and to find out how they princely having two children which, of course, is illegal in China.

Soon the royal tour will draw to a close and the Chinese will reluctantly say farewell to the tall, silver-haired figure whom they have taken to their hearts as half man, half god and half commentator supreme. By Chinese standards Sir Alastair is immensely tall, and they have christened him The-man-for-whom-no-bicycle-saddle-goes-high-enough. The huge state bicycle specially created for his visit will be wheeled out for him to take the final ride across the tarmac to his private plane, and then he'll be airborne. If the three million spectators keep off the runway, en route back to Britain. But one thing is certain: if the Chinese have their way, the nian they have christened Old Silver-top will be back.

write off
alliance



1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone: 01-481 4100

SENSE AND SENSITIVITY

A deluge of self-righteous protest will doubtless rain down upon the Home Secretary in the Commons next week following his decision to restrict the right of MPs to intervene on behalf of visitors refused entry to Britain. But his action reflects a growing public consensus, and in one respect at least it is overdue.

The right of MPs to intercede was based on the imperatives of time and place. By the time a case had been brought before the immigration appeals adjudicator, the person refused entry would be somewhere else — on an aircraft back to India or wherever. By contacting a sympathetic MP, he might at least ensure staying here until his argument had been heard.

That is no longer appropriate in most cases. Since this week's introduction of a visa requirement for visitors from Nigeria, Ghana and the Indian sub-continent (the sources of mass immigration in recent years), the claims of those who are seeking a home as well as a holiday will be settled in their country of origin before they even set foot on the plane. Any appeal will be lodged there too, and the opportunity for a British MP's intervention has been largely eliminated. An occasional would-be visitor will undoubtedly turn up at Heathrow without the necessary documents. But he or she would clearly be in breach of regulations.

The argument that Mr Hurd's decision is overdue is

based on the widespread abuse of the system by MPs — some of whom have been pleading the cases of visitors whom they have never met and of whom they know practically nothing. In 1981-82 for instance, they intervened 1,000 times which might sound high enough. But by 1985 the figure had climbed to nearly 6,000 and last month alone, as would-be entrants scrambled to beat the visa deadline, MPs acted on behalf of an estimated 1,000 — a rate of around 12,000 a year. The private office of Mr David Waddington, the Home Office minister responsible, is said to be larger than those of all the other departmental ministers combined, as officials have struggled through the paperwork. This represents a blockage in the system which cannot be justified.

MPs will still be able to intercede on behalf of those would-be visitors from countries where the visa system does not apply. In addition they retain the right to do so in respect of all visitors facing deportation at the end of their permitted stay in Britain. Justice, indeed, must be seen to be done. Those who have a genuine grievance should (and will) have their right of appeal. At present there are no plans to augment the immigration appeals machinery if only because it is thought unlikely that the number of appeals will grow significantly. This judgement could turn out to be wrong, in which case Whitehall would certainly need to respond.

But the country has been facing grave difficulties in stemming the tide of immigrants. The abrupt rise in numbers when the visa requirement was announced early last month strongly suggests that the status of "visitor" has often been less than genuine. The need for Government action is unquestionable if only in the interests of those with a genuine right to settle in this country and those who have already settled here.

It follows that the charge of racism by Mr Rajiv Gandhi (who demands visas himself for visitors to India) can be promptly dismissed. Visas are not required for most African countries or for visitors from the West Indies. They have been imposed for visitors from the Indian subcontinent because experience suggests that it is from among them that most illegal immigrants are drawn. For Mr Gandhi to draw parallels with South Africa is outrageous.

It follows too that Mr Gerald Kaufman, the Shadow Home Secretary, is extremely ill-advised in promising that a future Labour Government would repeal the visa legislation. There is a danger that people will remember what he said. So far the present Government has reacted responsibly and humanely to problems of great sensitivity which are likely to get worse before they get better. Those who try to put the boot in now will earn — and deserve — the thanks of no-one.

RIPPLES FROM REYKJAVIK

When US and Soviet arms negotiators met in Geneva for their first session since the deadlocked Reykjavik summit, the mood was less sombre than might have been expected. The failure in Iceland, far from stalling further East-West discussion on arms control, seemed, temporarily at least, to have given it new impetus.

Both President Reagan and Mr Gorbachov deserve some credit for this. They each set out their position clearly and in detail when they returned home, they analysed the failure without undue acrimony; and while each predictably blamed the other for the eventual breakdown, they insisted that the door to further talks was not closed.

That the Soviet side, in particular, has chosen to stress its receptiveness to further discussion — and dispatched its chief arms negotiator, Viktor Karpov, to West European capitals to demonstrate it — is a signal departure from previous Soviet practice. When the first US cruise and Pershing missiles arrived in Britain and West Germany in November 1983, the Soviet side walked out of the Geneva talks on intermediate-range nuclear forces in Europe.

There followed a period in which public communication between the superpowers was suspended. In the spring of 1985, under its new leader, the Soviet Union returned to a revamped set of Geneva talks in which the question of intermediate-range nuclear missiles in Europe was one of three areas of negotiation; the others being strategic nuclear missiles and weapons in space

(the forum for discussing President Reagan's Strategic Defence Initiative.)

By their action the Soviet side conceded that the suspension of dialogue had not served their interests. Moscow's conduct after Reykjavik shows that this was a lesson the Soviet Union took to heart: no agreement no longer means no dialogue.

Precisely what it does mean, however, is open to question. In London on Tuesday, and in Bonn the following day, Mr Karpov implied that the provisional agreement reached at Reykjavik on the eventual elimination of intermediate-range nuclear missiles from Europe was still on the table. He implied further that the agreement was not dependent on US agreement to postpone or cancel its strategic defence programme. In other words, the sort of agreement that was rejected by the Soviet side at Geneva three years ago was now a real possibility. If that is so, it is a perhaps a minor success to be retrieved from the failure at Reykjavik.

But is the Soviet Union really prepared to negotiate the elimination of all intermediate-range missiles in Europe without obtaining a US undertaking on the Strategic Defence Initiative in return? When they have tackled the specifics, both the Soviet leader and Mr Karpov have appeared non-committal and made gnomish statements about linking the three areas of arms talks at Geneva but not ruling out an agreement on missiles in Europe.

This leaves open the possibility that apparent Soviet interest in a European

agreement is just a consolation prize for disappointed West Europeans, intended to exploit yet again President Reagan's warmongering image and widen the perceived gap between European and American opinion. It might, on the other hand, be the genuine Soviet fallback position post-Reykjavik. If so, the nature of the East-West bargaining has changed and West European governments face a new dilemma.

The cruise and Pershing missiles sited in Western Europe have both strategic and political value. They are at once a deterrent to Soviet aggression and a guarantee of alliance unity and US protection for Western Europe in the future. Their complete withdrawal — across the Atlantic — could prove more difficult to reverse in an emergency than the withdrawal of the equivalent Soviet missiles beyond the Ural mountains.

Despite early protests, the West Europeans and their governments have now become accustomed to the protection afforded by cruise and Pershing with the result that the "zero option" proposed by the United States before their deployment is no longer as attractive as it was. The numbers of intermediate-range missiles in Europe might be reduced, on a strictly verifiable and reciprocal basis, but their total elimination could prove just as contentious an issue in Western Europe as the initial deployments were two years ago. From now on, the Geneva talks will assume particular interest for the West Europeans until the Soviet position is clarified.

HELPING THE MAHDI

The intention of Sadeq El Mahdi, the Sudanese Prime Minister, to reopen negotiations over the civil war in the South is welcome news for both the Sudanese and the West. The three-year civil war is simultaneously draining Africa's biggest country of funds, causing widespread famine and threatening the survival of the moderately pro-Western government.

If the leaders of the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army can be brought to the negotiating table, will the result be more fruitful than the last round in Addis Ababa? There is much talk in the Sudanese government about devising a new "multiple tier" legal system, which would distinguish between Muslims and Christians and remove a major obstacle to an accommodation with the nominally Christian rebels. By the Prime Minister's own account, a settlement had been almost achieved last August before the rebels shot down a civilian airliner. Tempers in Khartoum have now cooled enough for negotiations again to be possible.

It must be assumed that the Prime Minister's pre-condition, stated during his London visit this week, that the SPLA leaders must abandon guerrilla activity before talks begin, is intended mainly to placate those in Khartoum who favour a hard line. Sadeq El Mahdi himself desperately needs a negotiated settlement. He cannot win the current war of attrition, in which the rebels hold the countryside and the army keeps garrisons in the main towns. Nor can he afford the expense of continuing a war which is estimated to cost \$1 million a day — exactly equal to Sudan's export revenue.

If he cannot end the war, his regime is likely to go the way of the last attempt at democracy in Sudan, during the 1960s, which ended when Ja'afar Numeiry installed a dictatorship. This is particularly so because, on coming to power in May, the government pledged itself to solving the Southern problem before seriously turning to the country's other problems, in particular to its economic plight. Nevertheless, if the West

wishes to support Sadeq El Mahdi — and, in the absence of any obvious pro-Western successor, it makes sense to do so — it is in the economic sphere that assistance must come. There is little that the West can do to persuade Ethiopia to stop funding the rebels, or to sort out Sudan's internal differences. But the Sudanese debt is of direct concern to the West.

Sudan has, in qualitative terms, one of the worst debt problems in the world. Multilateral and bilateral creditors are reluctant to make a special case for Sudan, for fear of setting a precedent which the big South American debtors would be quick to exploit. Yet some sort of special accommodation for the \$12 billion debt would give breathing space to the regime.

Sudan is strategically important, and the allegiance of a future regime, should the current government collapse, is uncertain. While Sadeq El Mahdi's government retains some measure of authority, it would be in the interest of the West to lend him a sympathetic ear.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

No refuge for addict on the loose

From the Reverend Francis Pole
Sir, I wish I could believe Government Ministers when they say that the nation's health is safe in their hands.

Last Sunday afternoon a 26-year-old parishioner, not a church-goer but someone I knew slightly, a heroin addict, came to the door. He had been kicked out of his home by his father because of his addiction, and after some soul-searching realised that he needed help to get off drugs.

His request: that I take him to the local psychiatric hospital, where he had previously been a patient, to ensure that they took him in; he felt he might be turned away if he went by himself, and he did not want to risk losing out when he was motivated to help himself.

After carefully questioning him I agreed to take him to the local general hospital which has a direct link with the psychiatric hospital, so that he could be medically assessed. He was seen at out-patients, and the duty doctor made the referral to the psychiatric hospital.

But despite the doctor's view that now was the "psychological" moment when the man might respond to treatment, his request was turned down. A second doctor who, like the first, felt that the man should be admitted was angry but not surprised at the hospital's refusal.

I asked for advice as to where I could take the young man. They

could offer me absolutely nothing anywhere nearby. The National Health Service, they told me, had no special unit available for such self-referral. Knowing that we have no appropriate hostel accommodation available in Croydon, I had no alternative but to put the young man on the bus to London in the hopes that he would go to a DHSS hostel where he once stayed some time ago, and that he would seek help the following day.

Sir, this Government tells us that we are safe in its care. I question this claim. We are told, too, that it is vigorous in its fight against drugs and drug addiction. As regards searching for drugs and rooting-out "drug pushers", this claim may be able to be substantiated, although the shortage of customs and police officers would seem to discredit this.

But unless and until proper detoxification units are made available to men and women in all parts of the country, so as to assist them to "kick the habit" on a 24-hour basis — sadly, motivation does not work to a timetable — I shall have my doubts about this claim too.

The Government Ministers made their case verbally at Bournemouth. But at the end of the day it will be actions which will speak louder than words. Yours faithfully, FRANCIS POLE, St. Stephen's Vicarage, Warwick Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey.

Schools guide

From Mr T. Y. Benyon
Sir, Would that Dr Tomlinson (October 11) was right — "remarks offensive and inaccurate... class and snobbish... misleading as indicators of independent school standards in the 1980s." However, my children attend both private and State schools and the difference in the attitudes of the children, parents and teachers in each system indicates that Amanda Atha and Sarah Drummond are absolutely correct.

Our class system may become more mobile, but that does not alter the fact that it is charging on unchecked in the independent schools, who largely reflect the prejudices, and class bias, and the demands of the parents who pay the bills; it would, surely, be extraordinary if that were not the case.

Now to colour: one excellent head, who figured in your top schools list, has told me that too many coloured children in the school would worry the other parents and lead to a drop in his waiting lists. I have no reason to suppose that comment is not representative of attitudes generally.

Plus ça change, etc. Yours faithfully, TOM BENYON, The Old Rectory, Adstock, Nr Winslow, Buckinghamshire, October 12.

From the Right Reverend M. Green
Sir, In your first extract (October 6) from "The Good Schools Guide" the point was made that "even the best schools lacked any spiritual element, for the most part". Religious instruction, yes. But the compilers assert that few schools are capable of, or even interested in, giving any genuine spiritual guidance.

I noticed, however, that the

"top twenty" lists had no mention of the Woodard Schools as such: a group of some 25 independent schools, spread out between Tyndeside and Penzance, which are pledged by their foundation to attempt this very thing.

I have no intention of entering into a "holier-than-thou" contest, or of claiming that schools of the Woodard Corporation turn out boys and girls who are more "religious" than others. But that they attempt this spiritual ministry, and offer it to all who want it, is beyond doubt.

Yours sincerely, MARK GREEN (Provost, Woodard Schools Southern Division), 13 Archery Court, St Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex, October 13.

From Mr P. C. Thompson
Sir, Mr Paul Farmer's spirited defence of the pupils of the Dick Sheppard School at Tuttle Hill (letter, October 9) is a gratifying apology for their standards and his, but I feel I must take issue with him on a single point. He writes, "And all this is achieved in spite of their lack of privilege (65 per cent are on free meals)". This seems a willfully perverted use of the word "privilege". One hundred per cent of Mr Farmer's pupils are privileged to enjoy a total remission of school fees, while 65 per cent of them are doubly privileged in enjoying remission of the price of their meals. It is the 35 per cent who pay for their meals who endure a "lack of privilege".

It would be helpful if those who write on educational matters were to use words in their ordinary senses. Yours faithfully, P. C. THOMPSON, 16 Edgar Street, Worcester, October 9.

A rush of visitors

From the Director of the United Kingdom Immigrants Advisory Service
Sir, On page 24 of today's Times (October 15) you have a large photograph of a group of mainly middle-aged Asian men and women who, the caption tells us, are "immigrants at Heathrow's crowded terminal 3 yesterday". Most of them were more likely to have been visitors.

Below, your reporter tells us that Mr Cole (the immigration officers' union leader) "pointed to the... cubicles where would-be immigrants..." A little later your reporter refers to "Unprecedented numbers of would-be visitors..."

It is sad to see The Times using the words "immigrant" and "visitor" apparently interchangeably, thereby contributing to the

wholly misleading impression that Britain was in some way being "swamped" by immigrants trying to beat the deadline for visas.

For many years now would-be immigrants have required priority clearance in their country of origin before they can come to the UK. The new visa requirement applies to people coming from the five countries in question as visitors.

It is a great pity that the Home Office and the Immigration Service did not do more in recent days to make it clear to the Press and public that visitors are not immigrants, simply because they may be black or Asian.

Yours faithfully, MICHAEL BARNES, Director, UKIAS, PO Box 132, 7th Floor, Brittenham House, Seavoy Street, Strand, WC2.

Mechanical aid

From Mr Alfred Black
Sir, Some time ago I lost/misaid/destroyed my American Express card. I immediately reported this to them with a request for a new card. They assured me by telephone that this would be dealt with.

Some weeks passed... no card. I wrote again, and again. Still nothing happened. So I penned a letter to their computer.

Dear Computer, Could you possibly communicate to the letter-writer, who work (?) with you and ask them to send me a new card as has been promised as I may get more sense (and an answer) out of you! Result, a new card by return of post! Yours sincerely, ALFRED BLACK, 14 Warwick Drive, Upper Richmond Road, SW15, October 10.

Listing procedure

From Dr G. P. Black
Sir, Now that the Government have accepted the need to reconsider the listing procedures for historic buildings (Parliamentary Report, October 14) and have been pressed to introduce a legal

right to a fair hearing on appeal, should they not broaden their review to include all other types of preserved site (e.g. sites of special scientific interest), where the absence of any legal right to an impartial hearing on appeal is just as much a denial of natural justice?

Yours faithfully, GEORGE P. BLACK, George Black Associates, Conservation analysts and assessors, 107 Andover Road, Newbury, Berkshire.

Dealing with perjury

From Mr Ernie Money
Sir, The problem of dealing with the perjured police witness, considered in your account of Mr Tom Sargant and Mr Peter Hill's Fabian pamphlet (report, October 13), has been found a solution under various continental criminal systems, where a police officer convicted of perjury is liable to serve up to the maximum sentence for the offence in relation to which his perjury was committed. I am, Sir, your obedient servant, ERNIE MONEY, 1 Gray's Inn Square, Gray's Inn, WC1.

Cost of EEC to UK taxpayer

From Lord Bruce of Donington and Lord Stoddart of Swindon
Sir, Mr Jopling, in his speech to the Tory Party Conference, as reported in The Times on October 10, told delegates that "the cost of EEC support nationally was a mere 10p a head per day".

Put in these terms the cost of the EEC to the British taxpayer is made to appear nominal and trifling. However, 10p a day is 70p a week or £36.40 a year. Thus, for a family of four, the cost on the Jopling basis is no less than £2.80 a week or £145.60 per annum — hardly a trifling amount, particularly for those on average or below average incomes.

If we go further and translate 10p a head per day into the total contribution in money terms that Britain pays to the EEC annually, we find that the enormous total of £2,038 million results — equivalent to 2p off income tax or over £2 billion for measures to reduce mass unemployment much of which has, in any event, resulted from Britain's manufacturing deficit with the EEC which is now running at some £9 billion a year.

Yours faithfully, BRUCE OF DONINGTON, STODDART OF SWINDON, House of Lords, October 10.

Cruelty to animals

From the Executive Director of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
Sir, Lord Houghton of Sowerby (October 2) assumes that the RSPCA is seeking powers of direct entry for its inspectors. He also suggests that the police should enforce the law more vigorously and have the powers to do so.

The law in this case is the Protection of Animals Act 1911. It is a valuable Act, but one which does not, unfortunately, provide power for magistrates to grant search warrants to enable the police to effect entry. Therefore, even with excellent co-operation between the police and RSPCA inspectors, animals may often suffer because the law is inadequate.

The second Animal Squad programme (on BBC 1) highlighted the deficiency of the present law. There was strong evidence of severe suffering by a dog kept in private premises but no means by which the police could gain access to the dog without the owner's consent.

The RSPCA believes that section 12 of the 1911 Act should be updated as quickly as possible to include power for a magistrate to grant the police a search warrant to enable entry to be effected by the police when the magistrate is satisfied there are proper grounds for the issue of a warrant. This would only bring the 1911 Act into line with the Wildlife and Countryside Act and Agriculture (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1968, which already contain such a power.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully, F. DIXON WARD, Executive Director, Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Causeway, Horsham, West Sussex, October 9.

Incident in Verona

From Mr Peter Wood
Sir, Mr McCall's account (October 6) of the theft of his handbag outside the cathedral in Verona induces him to call in question his 30-year-old "love of Italy" and underline the contradiction between the theft and "the glorious cultural image of that city".

Reading his letter, one's mind is cast back to Cellini in Florence and Rome, always in danger, with friends watching his back and murderers lurking in the shadows and mugging as much a feature of daily life as it was in Johnson's London. What sort of glorious cultural image of medieval and renaissance Verona is it that excludes such raw experience of life?

One feels sorry that the McCalls were robbed and sorry they were upset, but to speak of deep spiritual wounds, betrayal, suffering and debasement suggests that the culture of Italy which many English middle-class visitors have been earnestly pursuing down the years is a piece of mere veneer. Yours faithfully, PETER WOOD, Newbold Farm, Duntisbourne Abbots, Cirencester, Gloucestershire, October 7.

Pension complaint

From Mr R. Cooper
Sir, I am currently in protracted negotiations with a former employer over the transfer of my portion of the firm's pension fund. It seems to me that there is clearly a serious potential conflict of interests when, as I believe is often the case, the company finance director is also a pension fund trustee.

Should not this conflict be prevented by legislation to ensure that executives with responsibilities for the financial performance of a company may not also act as a trustee of that company's pension fund? There would then be no reason to suspect that the trustees may act in a way other than in the best interests of the beneficiaries of the fund. Yours faithfully, R. COOPER, Durham Lodge, 167 Coulsdon Road, Old Coulsdon, Surrey, October 9.

ON THIS DAY

OCTOBER 17 1834

The Times was in no danger of exaggerating the ill-effects of the destruction by fire of the Houses of Parliament. There should be grateful rejoicing, it noted, at the sparing of Westminster Abbey and the Great Hall, but as to the rest, "Two Houses of Parliament much less adapted to their purpose could hardly be imagined". The Commons made temporary use of the Court of Requests in the old White Hall, while the Peers used the partially damaged Painted Chamber.

DESTRUCTION OF BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT BY FIRE

Shortly before 7 o'clock last night the inhabitants of Westminster, and of the districts on the opposite bank of the river, were thrown into the utmost confusion and alarm by the sudden breaking out of one of the most terrific conflagrations that has been witnessed for many years past. Those in the immediate vicinity of the scene of this calamity were quickly convinced of the truth of the cry, that the House of Lords and Commons and the adjacent buildings were on fire; the ill news spread rapidly through the town, and the flames increasing, and mounting higher and higher with fearful rapidity, attracted the attention not only of the passengers in the streets, but if we may judge from the thousands of persons who in a few minutes were seen hurrying to Westminster, of the vast majority of the inhabitants of the metropolis. We scarcely ever recollect to have seen the large thoroughfares of the town so thronged before.

Within less than half an hour after the fire broke out, it became impossible to approach nearer to the scene of the disaster than the foot of Westminster-bridge on the Surrey side of the river, or the end of Parliament-street on the other, except by means of a boat, or with the assistance of a guide, who, well acquainted with the localities, was enabled to avoid the crowd and reach Abingdon-street by the streets at the back of the Abbey. This locality, however, was in a very short space of time as densely thronged with spectators as any other. There was, however, nothing surprising in the multitude that flocked to the spot — in the crowded boats that floated on the river immediately in the front of the blazing pile — or in the countless numbers that swarmed upon the bridges, the wharfs, and even upon the housetops; for the spectacle was one of surpassing though terrific splendour, and the stately appearance of the Abbey, whose architectural beauties were never seen to the same advantage than when lighted by the flames of this unfortunate fire, would of themselves have attracted as many thousands to the spot. It was currently reported through the town that Westminster-hall, and even the Abbey itself, were in flames.

How and where the fire originated are still matters of doubt. The general belief, however, appears to be that it broke out in some part of the buildings attached to the House of Lords, from whence it spread to the House itself with such vast celerity, that before 8 o'clock the whole range of structure, from the portico by which the Peers enter, to the corner where it communicates with the committee-rooms of the House of Commons, was in flames.

As rapidly did the devouring elements extend its ravages to the ancient chapel of St. Stephen's, where the work of destruction was sooner over than in the other House of Parliament. The greater quantity of timber which the fabric of the House of Commons contained would readily account for this; and it is further to be observed, that from the situation of the building, and the unlucky circumstance of the tide being unusually low, a very scanty supply of water, and the application of only one or two engines, not very advantageously placed, were all that the most strenuous and the most zealous exertions could bring to bear in the vain attempt to save that interesting edifice from absolute destruction.

The conflagration, viewed from the river, was peculiarly grand and impressive. On the first view of it from the water, it appeared as if nothing could save Westminster-hall from the fury of the flames. There was an immense pillar of bright clear fire springing up behind it, and a cloud of white, yet dazzling smoke careering above it, through which, as it parted by the wind, you could occasionally perceive the lanterns and pinnacles, by which the building is ornamented.

Out of sight

From Mr Michael Reilly
Sir, I had a surgical friend who used to wear his name badge (letters, October 4, 9) in the middle of his back. He said that it made it easier for acquaintances at conferences who had forgotten his name to take their time peering at it from behind and then to greet him warmly and correctly from in front. Yours presbyopically, MICHAEL REILLY, Magnolia Cottage, Hornbower Lane, Yelverton, Devon.

From Mr Gordon Burrows
Sir, There are moments when it is irrelevant whether one wears a name label on the right or left lapel or on the back (letter, October 14). I once had the humiliating experience of being accosted by a delegate at a conference with the words: "I know your name, but I can't remember your face". Yours faithfully, GORDON BURROWS, Lanka, 17 Marston Road, Farnham, Surrey.

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1277.6 (+1.2) FT-SE 100 1605.0 (-2.5) Bargains 28439 USM (Datastream) 124.21 (+0.67) THE POUND US Dollar 1.4370 (-0.0025) W German mark 2.8338 (-0.0063) Trade-weighted 67.7 (+0.1)

Christies says 'no'

Christies International, the fine art auctioneer, has given the cold shoulder to a proposed merger with its smaller rival Phillips. There has been mounting speculation in the City that Phillips might be preparing to bid for Christies. But Mr John Floyd, Christies' chairman, last night said he had met Mr Christopher Weston, the head of Phillips, who made it clear he had no intention of bidding. However, Mr Weston was keen on taking a stake in Christies, "for investment purposes". Mr Floyd said: "I see no strategic or commercial logic in a link between the two companies. Our recent results show we continue to enjoy our position as one of the two leading auction houses in Britain and international markets. This underlines the success of the group's overall strategy." Christies shares fell 20p to 280p.

Losses cut

The computer software producer, Micro Focus, cut its interim losses to £480 million for the six months to July 31 from £2.81 million last year. Turnover remained unchanged at £5.65 million. The company does not pay a dividend. - *Tempus*, page 22.

Strong reply

Strong & Fisher, the leather manufacturer, replied to Garnar Booth's defence document. The board of Strong & Fisher noted the contorted deterioration of Garnar Booth's business and the lack of a strategic plan to reverse the trend. - *Tempus*, page 22.

W&P contract

Watson and Philip has entered into a conditional contract to acquire J W Smalley (Holdings), a cash and carry and property investment business, for £6.86 million through a share issue.

Holding cut

Sime Darby has sold 47 million shares in Consolidated Plantations, 10 per cent of its holding, for M\$131 million, reducing its controlling interest to 52.5 per cent.

Baker popular

The tender offer of 25 per cent of Baker Harris Saunders Group, the first commercial estate agents to go public, has been oversubscribed 4.4 times. The striking price is set at 170p per share, a 20p premium.

Mecca sale

The offer for 34 per cent of Mecca Leisure Group, subject of a £95 million buyout from Grand Metropolitan is oversubscribed. Share allotment details of the £32.9 net flotation will be announced soon.

Table with 2 columns: Commodity, Share Prices. Includes items like Corn, Wheat, and various stock indices.

MARKET SUMMARY

Table with 2 columns: STOCK MARKETS, MAIN PRICE CHANGES. Lists various market indices and price movements.

Low-key Lawson defends rise in interest rates

By Rodney Lord, Economics Editor

Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, yesterday denied that the broad measures of the money supply were growing too fast. He defended his decision to raise interest rates by 1 percentage point on Tuesday by reference to the pressure on sterling and the acceleration in growth of the narrow measure of money. But he offered markets no changes in the framework of monetary control. His low-key speech at the annual dinner for bankers and merchants at the Mansion House in London is expected to disappoint markets. Sterling was drifting yesterday in anticipation of what the Chancellor might say to increase confidence in the currency. It closed in London before the speech at \$1.437, down 0.1c. Its effective rate was 67.7, up 0.1. Mr Lawson emphasized that the Government's fiscal policy was fully under control and he referred to the latest figures for the public sector borrowing requirement which, at £2.2 billion for September, were lower than markets had been expecting. Monetary conditions, he said, were not properly represented by the current growth in sterling M3. He referred to his speech on the same occasion last year and when he predicted that the ratio of M3 to total spending in the economy would grow, as it had, because of changes in financial institutions. Monetary strategy remained as before with short term interest rates the key instrument. These would be held at whatever level was necessary to bear down on inflation. In reviewing progress in the economy the Chancellor said that a slow down in world trade had hit Britain's exports this year but that this was likely to be replaced by faster growth next year. As a result, overall growth in the economy would be both faster and better balanced. Exaggerated fears about the current account of the balance of payments needed to be seen in perspective. British exports in recent years had maintained their share of world trade after a long period in which they had declined. Mr Lawson welcomed the approaching Big Bang in the City but he gave a warning that there were bound to be some casualties. In the new global market there was a risk of bad supervision driving out good. This had to be avoided by international co-ordination of regulation which was increasing. Speaking on the same occasion, the Governor of the Bank of England, Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton, indicated that the fall in the pound had now gone far enough to offset the impact of lower oil prices on the balance of payments. The threat to Britain's competitive position was now high pay settlements. Productivity growth came nowhere near warranting the 4.5 per cent annual growth in real incomes. Although there was room for some increase in living standards too rapid a rise in consumption could all too easily lead back to growing trade deficits. Current settlements were still no lower than in 1973 when inflation was twice its present level.

Low PSBR rise surprises City

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

The public sector borrowing requirement was £2.2 billion last month, well below average City expectations, but higher than the August figure of £1.8 billion. In the first half of the fiscal year the cumulative PSBR was £6 billion. This compares with the Government's forecast of £7.1 billion for the full year. But borrowing is expected to be significantly lower in the second half with the proceeds of the British Gas privatisation. The September borrowing figures were the first to be significantly affected by the collapse in oil prices. The Government repaid £1 billion in advanced petroleum revenue tax to the oil companies. In September last year, the oil companies paid £1.5 billion in PRT. The underlying PSBR is probably running at a lower level than last year, given the size of the turnaround in oil revenues. In September last year, the PSBR was £1.2 billion. Non-oil tax revenues are strongly ahead, in line with buoyant consumer spending. In the first half of the fiscal year, Customs and Excise receipts were 10 per cent up on the corresponding period of last year. Supply expenditure in the first half was 3.5 per cent higher than last year, but officials said this did not indicate a loss in control over spending. The central government borrowing requirement was £2.2 billion last month and £10.3 billion in the April to September period. Local authorities and public corporations both made small debt repayments last month. Final figures from the Bank of England showed a 1.6 per cent rise in sterling M3 last month to 18.3 per cent above its level a year earlier. Narrow money, M0, rose by 0.8 per cent and its 12-month growth rate was 4.5 per cent.

Coalite raises bid for Hargreaves by 28%

By Richard Lander

The Coalite energy distribution group yesterday stepped up its bid for the Hargreaves Group by about 28 per cent to value Hargreaves at about £100 million. The offer was given immediate serious consideration by Hargreaves, whose interests include energy, transport and building materials. Having dismissed the original bid out of hand, the Hargreaves board last night told shareholders that they would be "extremely ill-advised" to take any action while it examined the options. These were thought to include issuing a valuation of the company, and the possibility of enticing a white knight to enter the battle. Most City analysts, however, concurred with Mr Eric Varley, chairman of Coalite, who said he would be "very surprised" if a rival bidder emerged at the new bid level. Coalite is offering one share and 565p in cash for every three Hargreaves shares, compared with the previous bid of one share and 600p for every four shares. With Coalite shares easing 2p to 260p yesterday, the offer raised Coalite's valuation of Hargreaves' shares from 215p to 275p. Hargreaves ended 15p higher at 271p. Coalite has also introduced a full cash alternative of 270p. Coalite, which holds a 4.6 per cent stake in Hargreaves, has deemed the new bid to be its final offer, expiring on November 2. - *Tempus*, page 23.

New study plays down size of Britain's black economy

By Our Economics Correspondent

Britain's black economy is not as large as is commonly thought, according to new estimates by the Institute for Fiscal Studies. It is equivalent to between 3 and 5 per cent of gross domestic product, the IFS calculates, in a newly published book* and not the 7.5 per cent estimate by a former chairman of the Inland Revenue - quite apart from other estimates which are as high as 15 or 20 per cent. The black economy includes all activities which would normally be subject to tax - and which escape the tax net. Services for households, including decorating, plumbing and window cleaning, are typical black economy occupations. But there is, says Mr Stephen Smith, senior research officer with the IFS, a wider shadow economy, including do-it-yourself work, the work done by housewives and so on. This shadow economy does not involve normally taxable activities but it may mean that the size of the economy, as measured by the official statistics, is understated. This is the familiar problem of national accounts. If a man employs a housekeeper, her work is included in gross domestic product. If he marries his housekeeper, her work is not officially recognized. Although it is impossible to put a value on the shadow economy, the amount of hours that people work in it is probably similar to the total hours worked in paid employment, according to Mr Smith. The difficulty arises if there are shifts in and out of the shadow economy, for example if people decorate their own houses where they used to employ someone to do it. This could affect measured growth in the economy, although the evidence, the IFS says, is that such shifts are not large enough to cause major distortions. The shadow economy, like the recorded economy, is probably most prosperous in the south of England. Do-it-yourself is not a poor man's method of household improvement and maintenance but one associated with affluence. The shadow economy booms where people are buying and improving houses. The IFS says of the pure tax-avoiding black economy that there are dangers in overstating the scale of the problem. It could, for example, encourage other people to try and escape the tax net. "The evidence does not suggest that the black economy is particularly large or that the tax system is close to break-down," Mr Smith says. "Undoubtedly problems of enforcement do exist in some areas but their solution will rarely be made any easier by continuing misapprehension of the actual scale of the black economy." *The Shadow Economy by Stephen Smith, Oxford University Press, £19.50.



James Sherwood: "all the excitement is over"

We'll weather it, Sherwood says

By Teresa Poole, Business Correspondent

Mr James Sherwood, president of Sea Containers, the owners of Sealink, said yesterday that he had no doubts about the "financial integrity" of the group and that profits in the third quarter of 1986 would be between \$15 million (£10.7 million) and \$20 million (£14.3 million). But the costs of the recent Sealink strike, heavy redundancy payments and the collapse of three customers earlier this year will mean a net loss for the full year, compared with profits of \$39.5 million in 1985. The Bermuda-based company announced last week that it was suspending payment of dividends on common shares in order to conserve cash. After lengthy negotiations Sealink appears to have settled the strike by withdrawing plans to make 492 staff redundant on the Sealink Channel Islands services. But the fourth quarter will bear the brunt of the £3 million strike costs and about £3 million in redundancy payments. This year's first half losses were \$26.5 million. Speaking in Nassau, Mr Sherwood said provisions for further redundancy costs might be made at the end of the year as part of a "clean out." He added: "We will set the stage for a return to future profitability." That is likely to mean also "significant" write-downs on a couple of ships and on older containers. "All the excitement is over. From now on the situation should be calm. We will have a hard year this year but we have no doubt about the financial integrity of the group and will bounce back to previous profit levels." Mr Sherwood also faces difficulties at SeaCo Inc, now renamed Orient Express Hotels, the financially troubled New York company which owns the Orient Express and a number of hotels, including the Cipriani in Venice. Earlier this week he agreed to step down as president to make room for a full-time chief executive officer as part of a refinancing package which will raise up to \$20 million through the issue of new shares and up to \$25 million through the sale of two hotels.

Nobel Prize for US professor

Professor James Buchanan

The Nobel Prize for economics has been won by Professor James Buchanan, an American who helped to develop a new branch of economics known as the theory of public choice. The theory holds that government decisions are best explained by the interests of public officials and other interest groups most closely involved in them. "According to Buchanan, it is often futile to advise politicians or influence the outcome of specific issues," says the Swedish Academy. Mr Buchanan, aged 67, holds a chair at George Mason University, Virginia.

Maxwell saves Stothert with £4m injection

By Cliff Feltham

The Daily Mirror publisher, Mr Robert Maxwell, has come to the rescue of the troubled crane manufacturers Stothert and Pitt. Through his privately controlled Pergamon Holdings, he is pumping £4 million into Stothert and Pitt, in exchange for a 77 per cent stake of the enlarged company. Mr George King, chairman and chief executive of the company, said: "We were in a bad way and could not raise money from existing shareholders, but Mr Maxwell agreed to act as our white knight. He told us he was intent on getting manufacturing industry in this country going again." Stothert and Pitt made first-half losses of £1.4 million, and is expected to finish the year in the red. Despite a full order book, it has been hit by cash flow problems. Pergamon already owns a clutch of industrial businesses, through the Hollis group, and is likely to merge with Stothert and Pitt at some stage.

Fun money prospects

In tomorrow's 12-page Family Money, The Times reports on a changing mortgage market. What will your next mortgage repayment be? In its own impressively prepared way, Hong Kong capital for the Queen's arrival with a record stock market surge. We analyse Hong Kong as a market for UK investors' fun money. After Big Bang will small investors be playing the "core and satellite" game? We look at index funds. And, we pose the chilling question "Is your insurance company going bust?"

Adamson goes in Renold board shake-up

By Lawrence Lever

Renold, the engineering group, yesterday announced a big boardroom shake-up with both the chairman, Sir Campbell Adamson, and the group managing director, Mr Nigel Blakstad, leaving the company. The two men have been widely credited with the revitalization of Renold's fortunes since 1982. Yesterday's announcement made it clear that the Renold board had effectively dismissed Mr Blakstad, who has been with the company for 30 years. Sir Campbell - who has resigned - said later he had done so because he disagreed with the decision to oust Mr Blakstad. Yesterday's announcement was made on the back of a forecast of interim profits around the break-even level - as opposed to £2.5 million last year. The downturn, but not the extent of it, had been announced by Sir Campbell at the company's August annual meeting. Sources close to the company said yesterday one of the main factors behind the shake-up had been a fundamental disagreement over policy - a view which Mr Blakstad later confirmed. The sources said that while Mr Blakstad had been anxious to invest more in research and development - notably in robotics - the board had been very concerned about the low level of the share price and the possibility of a hostile takeover. Mr Blakstad said yesterday his departure resulted from "a difference in view over opinion". A few weeks ago, members of the board suggested that they did not have much confidence in Mr Blakstad. I told my colleagues that I profoundly disagreed. He was the right man for the job. If you like, I lost. I didn't manage to persuade my colleagues on the board of my point of view. He refused to discuss the question of compensation although Mr Brian Thompson, Renold's finance director, said yesterday a payment would be made. Mr Blakstad's departure, he added, resulted from "the board's lack of confidence in the overall group direction". He also blamed the disappointing first-half results expected this year. He added that "the board did not desire the going of the chairman". Sir Campbell said yesterday he had resigned over "quite honest" differences of opinion. "I was building the company for the future. I had a policy and belief but the board had a different one. It is simply a question of emphasis and maybe also style. One of the problems was the rate at which things had to be done. We disagreed, but I think you cannot do everything at once. "I am certainly not deeply bitter. Everyone is entitled to their opinion. When there has been a substantial profits hiccup, then I am responsible and you can't get beyond that".

Ladbroke sells Laskys to Granada for £30m

By Alison Eadie

The Ladbroke and Granada groups, which earlier this year called off plans for a full-scale merger, yesterday announced that Granada was acquiring Laskys, the consumer electronics retail chain, from Ladbroke for £30.25 million. Ladbroke bought Laskys in 1979, but did not make any money out of it because the 53 outlets never provided sufficient economies of scale to cover overheads and marketing costs. In the 12 months to the end of June, Laskys lost £645,000 pretax on sales of £80 million. Granada believes it can achieve profitability through putting the buying, marketing, distribution, service and consumer credit muscle of its 550 television rental outlets at Laskys' disposal. It plans to double the size of the chain in the next two years at a cost of about £25 million. Granada is keen to build up an electrical retail presence. It would have bought Comet, the electrical retailer owned by Woolworth Holdings, if the Dixons bid for Woolworth had succeeded. It has started selling televisions and video recorders through its rental outlets, spurred by the decline in the rental market. Dixons was also interested in Laskys, but only to take over a competitor and close down some of its shops. Its offer was well under that made by Granada. The financing of the deal breaks even ground, as the vendor placing of 10.6 million new Granada shares was won in a bought deal contest. Salomon Brothers International, the American investment bank, won the contest by 8am yesterday morning after a 7.30am start in competition with two British banks. - *Comment*, page 23.

Advertisement for TSB application. Includes text: 'No luck with your TSB application?', 'High Growth Investment Bond', 'Retail Price Index', 'Building Society', 'Bank Deposit'. Also includes a coupon for requesting more information and a 'HIGH GROWTH INVESTMENT BOND' logo.

STOCK MARKET REPORT

Holmes à Court could be the mystery buyer of Sears shares

By Michael Clark and Carol Leonard

Sears, the Selfridges, Saxe and Mappin & Webb stores group, was the big talking point among dealers after hours last night, amid suggestions that the Australian entrepreneur, Mr Robert Holmes à Court, had taken a fancy to the shares.

The price responded with a rise of 6p to 120 1/2p, amid unconfirmed reports that the brokers, Rowe & Pitman, and rival T C Coombes had picked up a total of about 10 million shares on his behalf between them. That would give him about 5 per cent of the total shares in issue.

Sears has often been tipped as a possible takeover candidate, but has seen its share price drift from the 148p it stood at earlier this year. However, Sears is still one of Britain's biggest stores groups with a price tag of £1.7 billion.

Anyone wishing to make an aggressive bid would require an awful lot of financial muscle. Dealers have decided that Mr Holmes à Court may well have decided to buy a stake in

Holdings, the investment company formed by the merger of the Charterhouse Group and RIT Northern a few years ago, has again been trying to buy back some of its shares.

Cazenove, the broker, was sent into the market and instructed to pick up a total of 10 million shares at 132p. But the broker appears to have met with little success and is reckoned to have acquired less than 2 million.

Rothschild has been using its spare cash to buy back its own shares for some time. Analysts claim the effect is to reduce the group's capital base and boost its earnings a share.

Takeover speculation about Pilkington Brothers, the glass manufacturer, reached fever pitch yesterday with speculators talking of a bid at 550p a share later today. It was fuelled by talk that a fine of 2 million Pilkington shares had been put through the market at 462p a share.

Pilkington climbed a further 20p to touch a new high at 503p with several stock-broking firms heavy buyers of the stock.

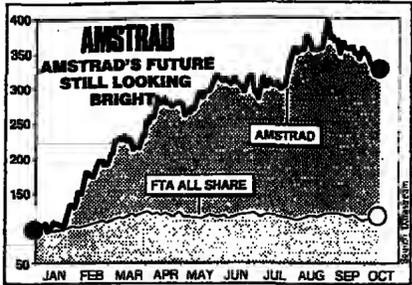
Rio Tinto-Zinc, the favourite to bid, firmed 5p to 684p. Hanson, another possible predator, hardened a couple of pence to 19p. English China Clay, another bid rumour stock put on 5p to 321p and Steedley, which is thought to be interested in bidding for Istock Johnson, gained 10p to 466p. Istock firmed a couple to 184p.

The rest of the equity market had a quiet day with most traders too pre-occupied with their plans for Big Bang to swap gossip on share tips.

The FT-30 share index closed off its best level of the day at 1277.6, up 1.2. The broader-based FT-SE share 100 index was down 2.5 at 1605.0.

Blue chips were mixed, with most moving no more than a couple of pence in either direction. Allied Lyons dipped 8p to 305p. British Telecom 4p to 186p and Lucas 5p to 498p, while BICC improved 4p to 255p. Hawker Siddeley a further 6p to 453p and TIF and Blue Circle both 3p to 155p and 583p respectively.

Oils had an uneasy day on the back of the Opec meeting



with most stocks finishing at least a couple of pence lower. Shell slipped 7p to 906p, BP 5p to 668p and I C Gas 5p to 511p.

Partly-paid TSB shares firmed a halfpenny to 84 1/2p after touching 85 1/2p mid morning. The rest of the banking sector was mixed. Lloyds put on 3p to 417p, while Royal Bank of Scotland slipped 2p to 328p and Stan-

Consolidated Gold Fields, the mining finance group, kept up a cracking pace, advancing 7p to 495p short of the year's high. Fiske & Co, the broker was a big buyer of call options for the January series and was joined by Alexander's Laing & Cruickshank. Dealers claim Cons Gold's UK interest are worth this on their own, with the South African and Australian businesses thrown in for nothing. In August the shares stood at 450p.

Standard Chartered lost 5p on profit-taking to 772p. Life insurance companies had another good day with Sun Life going up 8p to 882p, Britannic 7p to 809p, Refuge 5p to 398p and Pearl 5p to 1473p.

Unigate led the way up among food manufacturers, climbing 7p to 295p, as word went round that blue-blooded broker Cazenove were buying the stock.

John J Lees, the Scottish manufacturer of coconut snowballs and other confections, surged 16p to a new high of 131p. Tate & Lyle 5p to 670p. Rowntree Mackintosh 5p to 408p and Bernard

Matthews, the turkey group, 3p to 231p. Manders, the Wolverhampton-based paint, printing inks and property company, went up a further 8p in busy trading to 321p, on talk that Mr Ron Brierley, the New Zealand businessman may have stepped up his holding some say to as much as 7 per cent.

Beecham firmed 3p to 413p as Goldman Sachs, the New York investment house confirmed that it has appointed an analyst to follow the company but added that it will not be publishing any recommendations before the end of the month.

Cable & Wireless, which started the week in such high spirits, came in for further profit-taking, despite confirmation this week of a \$20 million contract for telephone exchanges in China.

The price slipped a further 10p to 324p having hit 343p on Monday. Cure Myers, the broker, is reckoned to have been big buyers of the shares and dealers have reported heavy options business.

But the market is disappointed with the news from China and clearly set its sights too high.

Ladbroke was unchanged at 348p after confirmation that Granada was paying £30 million for its Laskys, hi-fi retailing chain.

The deal had been hinted at for sometime with Dixons originally tipped as a possible buyer. Granada finished the day 2p down at 282p.

Mr Alan Sugar's Amstrad hardened 8p to 132p, on growing hopes of its new IBM-compatible personal computer. Analysts are excited by

prospects for the new computer and say it will maintain the group's astonishing growth record over the next few years.

Excitement increased on reports from the United States that IBM has decided to withdraw from the personal computer market. This would effectively leave the way open for companies like Amstrad.

IBM was a firm market, climbing £1.50 to £85, after weakness in the US following disappointing trading news. In London, N M Rothschild is thought to have joined the growing list of sellers and is urging clients to sell the shares.

Hargreaves soared 15p to 271p after a higher offer from Coalite, the chemicals group. Coalite is now bidding, what it hopes will be the knockout blow, of £103 million. The terms are one Coalite for every three Hargreaves.

There is a cash alternative of 270p. Coalite, down 2p to 260p, already owns 4.99 per cent. Hargreaves, British Aerospace, the defence engineering group, lost 8p to touch 465p despite news of a

An attempt by Glaxo to recover from its post-results fall ended after word filtered through that Merck had won approval from the US Food and Drug Administration to market Pepsid and Amoxitidine, two anti-ulcer drugs, to rival Glaxo's Zantac. The shares fell to 948p.

£10 million order to supply Swiss Air Ambulance with two of their twin engine jet transporters.

Renold, the chain makers, put on another 5p to 54p, on rumours of a bid at between 80p and 90p a share - valuing the company at £57 million.

The gossip seems to have prompted the group to strengthen its board - with both the chairman, Sir Campbell Adamson, and the managing director resigning to make way for fresh blood.

News of the board reshuffle accompanied a profits forecast of break even or a little more for the six months to end September, compared with the £2.5 million last time. The company blames a fall in demand for its products.

US defence compromise saves \$560 billion Bill

From Bailey Morris, Washington

An important compromise by the United States House and Senate negotiators was reached yesterday on a record \$560 billion (£392 billion) spending plan for fiscal 1987. It appeared to assure passage of the Bill before the midnight deadline when the Government's spending authority expired.

Working round the clock, the House and Senate negotiators laboured to resolve their few remaining differences with the Administration over the omnibus spending Bill.

A final House vote was scheduled for 1 am, and the Senate was due to follow suit immediately in a desperate attempt to approve the spending authority before the opening of the business day.

The important breakthrough came earlier when the negotiators agreed on defence spending outlays of \$291.8 billion which the White House termed acceptable and a figure of \$13.3 billion for foreign aid programmes.

Earlier, President Reagan had threatened to veto the spending Bill if the defence numbers, which included \$3.53 billion for the President's strategic defence initiative - the "star wars" programme - were unacceptable.

House officials said after the compromise that they would take the measure to the floor where passage was virtually assured. But officials of the Office of Management and Budget warned that a Presidential veto was still possible if the negotiators

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House officials said after the compromise that they would take the measure to the floor where passage was virtually assured. But officials of the Office of Management and Budget warned that a Presidential veto was still possible if the negotiators

were unable to resolve the Administration's objections to foreign subsidies, agricultural spending levels and a controversial provision governing off-shore oil rigs.

At the same time Congressional supporters of the American balanced budget law prepared for a final battle to restore the automatic spending cut provisions before the start of an election recess later this week.

Sponsors of the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings law have warned weary Congressmen that they may try to delay the recess to force action on the rising deficit, estimated this year at \$230 billion (£159.7 billion), by giving the President's budget director automatic power to impose steep spending cuts.

Pause in lawsuit by Tingo

Sol group expands in self-catering

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

Tingo Realisations, the series of hotel deals, Spain's leading hotel group, Sol, disclosed expansion in self-catering apartments to provide for what is seen as the big growth area in package holidays.

Sol - nearly half its customers are Britons - sees self-catering accommodation as an especially attractive investment. The finance needed for apartments is less than for hotels and there is a lower cost in operating them, said Mr Juan Caldentey, Sol's managing director.

The group, which has more than 100 hotels and is the third highest hotel group in Europe, is launching Apart Sol, a division to promote self-catering apartments. Among blocks planned is one in Cyprus.

Self-catering is clearly likely to expand, judging from the first of the brochure launches by British tour operators, with big companies like Thomson Holidays and Intasun increasing substantially their self-catering holiday offerings to keep average prices to the bargain levels of this past summer.

But brochure prices of hotel-based holidays are in some cases up at least 10 per cent with some rises well above that. Spanish hotel prices to the British tour operators have

risen between 8 and 10 per cent for next summer, in line with the rate of inflation in Spain, according to Mr Caldentey.

It raises the question of how far there will be a bookings swing towards the cheaper self-catering deals to the detriment of hotel-based holidays.

Self-catering now accounts for 15 per cent of the market in holiday areas in and around the Mediterranean served by Sol. Mr Caldentey forecasts an average rise of about 10 per cent in self-catering with Spanish resorts likely to see more growth than that.

Summed, one of the biggest tour operators for holidays in Greece, has forecast a shift away from Spain to Greece where Sunmed claims prices next summer are falling compared with the past season.

Sunmed is reducing its prices by about £15 a holiday or 6 to 7 per cent.

But some hotel prices in Greece have risen substantially, according to Mr Caldentey.

Sol, which unsuccessfully entered the bidding for one of the most recent sales of a prime central London hotel, has bought five hotels - in Lanzarote, Cadiz, Majorca, Barcelona and Las Palmas in the Canaries.

Japan 'must aid neighbours'

From David Watts, Tokyo

Mr Lee Kuan Yew, prime minister of Singapore, believes Japan should take "affirmative action" to help less fortunate nations reduce their trade imbalances.

Singapore's prime minister is the most prominent of a number of visitors from South-east Asia this autumn.

So far they have included Dr Mahathir bin Mohamed, the prime minister of Malaysia, who sought easier terms on Japanese loans, and Air Chief Marshal Siddhi Savetsila, the Thai foreign minister who wanted more trade and investment.

Next month President Corason Aquino of the Philippines visits Japan. She will try to convince hesitant Japanese investors that her country is stable enough to make a good home for their money.

With the exception of Singapore, Japanese industry has been moving away from

investments in neighbouring Asian countries in preference to Europe and the United States as the prospect of protectionist measures looms larger.

Mr Lee ranks high among Asian leaders. It falls to him to tell his hosts how they should develop the long-term economic relationship with South-east Asia if it is not to become "irksome". The continued import of natural resources from the area and export of finished products frequently results in a lopsided trade balance.

No longer are Japan's external policies of interest only to foreign countries, said Mr Lee. Internal dynamics affect external policies more and more.

Asked what "affirmative action" should be taken, he said: "I think first Japan should make as much of its 4 per cent targeted growth as

possible. Never mind about restructuring, just achieve that goal so that external demand does not fall down. . . . "In the long term, Japan will have to help these countries to understand it. If you ease the way it will lessen the frustrations. Otherwise we will have to learn the hard way."

Mr Lee had some words of support for the prime minister, Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone's, opinion that Japan is strengthened by its outwardly mono-racial society.

"We can never achieve the same sense of heightened solidarity you have, where everybody is prepared to sacrifice for everybody else because you are all one family. . . . My guess is we can achieve 70-80 per cent of what we would have achieved if we were all one ethnic, cultural group," he said.

Booming pawnbroker seeks listing

A booming pawnbroker is to be floated on the Stock Exchange thanks to the spread of plastic money.

Mr Phil Murphy, managing director of Albemarle Pawnbrokers, says people are increasingly in debt with their credit cards or store charge cards, and so turn to his ancient profession for help.

His 18-month-old company is about to double in size with a £400,000, fully-subscribed share offer. Investors have snapped up shares offered at

£2.10 each, despite a promise of no return for three years.

But although the traditional three balls still hang outside Mr Murphy's three shops in Bristol, Oxford and Cardiff, he sees himself in a crusade to update the trade's steady image.

Mr Murphy, aged 48, admits the trade as a whole is in the decline - the National Pawnbrokers Association has just 131 members.

But, he said: "That's their own fault. There's no reason why other pawnbrokers' businesses ought not to do as well as mine."

"They just don't have the right attitude towards the market. Our offices look just like any building society."

Loans range from £5 to £15,000, but he says very little of the business can be laid at the door of unemployment, while a great deal can be blamed on the growth in consumer credit and debt.

South leads boom in real coffee sales

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

Real coffee, rather than the instant variety, is proving so popular that it now accounts for a fifth of all coffee sales - establishing a sector worth £50 million a year.

In London and the south of England, 68 per cent of consumers drink real coffee frequently but it is least popular in the north even though 40 per of factory workers consider it an aphrodisiac (only 7 per cent have any faith in its effectiveness for dealing with hangovers).

This emerged yesterday when a campaign to promote more drinking of real coffee was launched by Lyons Tetley, market leader in the sector and part of the food division of Allied Lyons.

Real coffee consumption per head rose 30 per cent between 1980 and 1985 while coffee drinking overall has doubled in the past ten years, said Lyons Tetley. Two cups of tea are still being drunk to every one of coffee but the gap has been closing because in 1966 tea was ahead by 6.5 cups to 1.

The gradual decline of tea had now halted and that market seemed stable, said Mr John Atrree, general manager

for coffee and grocery at Lyons Tetley.

Instant coffee sales have been growing by a few percentage points a year but the growth in real coffee consumption could double in five to ten years, Mr Atrree added. Real coffee consumption was increasing at up to four times the rate of instant coffee.

This is despite a price differential which means real coffee costs about 4p a cup against 2.5p to 3p for a cup of premium instant like a freeze dried variety.

A crucial stimulant to real coffee sales was the popularity of the new generation of filter machines for making such coffee.

About 1.5 million of the machines are now being sold annually and last year they were at the top of the wedding present lists.

About 9 million cups of real coffee are drunk daily, men consuming slightly more at 2.56 cups than women (2.26 cups). Most real coffee is drunk in the evening while breakfast time is next most popular.

The biggest growth in the real coffee sector is in decaffeinated varieties the sales of which are doubling each year.

Mr Atrree believes that this is part of the health boom. In the United States decaffeinated coffee accounts for a fifth of the market, he said.

Buildings flotation planned

By Judith Huntley

Investors could soon have the chance to buy a piece of a £20 million plus office block, shopping centre and business park in County Down, the merchant bank, and Richard Ellis, the surveyor, have their way.

They have set up an association to promote their vehicle for selling shares in single commercial properties on the stock market after agreement by the Stock Exchange in August to list their single asset property vehicle.

Mr Daniel Sheridan, of the Stock Exchange markets department, is to become a director of the association, which is to be known as the Pines Association. The name derives from the Ellis-County Bank vehicle called Property Income Certificates.

Mr Paul Orchard-Lisle, a former president of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and a partner of Healey & Baker, the surveyor, will join Mr Sheridan as a director of the association.

Pines is a new firm of security allowing investors to deal in tradable equity in a single commercial building, benefiting from rental income flow and capital appreciation, if any. Its promoters aim to float the first three or four buildings in the new market at the beginning of next year.

Mr John Barkshire, of Mercantile House Holdings, is developing a rival vehicle - a new type of trust in a single commercial property.

Harris Queensway acquires Harveys

By Cliff Feltham

A former market trader has become a multi-millionaire after selling his chain of curtain and linen shops to Harris Queensway, the large furniture and carpets group.

Mr Harvey Gilbert, aged 40, who used £2,000 of capital to set up a market stall in east London 20 years ago, is collecting £9.5 million for selling a 75 per cent stake in his chain of 33 Harveys high street shops situated in the South-east of England.

He has the option to sell the rest of the business for a further £2.5 million, depending on future profits. Last year

the business earned about £50,000.

A Harris Queensway executive said: "Mr Gilbert built his business up in a similar way to the way our chairman, Sir Philip Harris, created his group - from small beginnings and by a lot of hard work."

Harveys will continue to operate from its base in Barking, east London. Mr Gilbert said: "The tie-up with Harris Queensway enables me to make the business grow even faster. I certainly have no intention of retiring."

Bell fails to lift stake in Crucible above 20%

By Our City Staff

Mr Robert Holmes à Court, the Australian entrepreneur, met with only a limited success in his efforts to raise his stake in Morgan Crucible to 29.9 per cent.

His tender offer for up to 14.8 million shares at up to 320p per share was accepted by holders of just more than 5.8 million shares. This raises the total holding of Mr Holmes à Court's Bell Resources to just short of 20 per cent of Morgan Crucible's equity.

A spokesman for Lazard, Bell's merchant bank, said: "We are delighted with the result. We would have liked more, but we have increased our holding in a very fine company." He declined to comment on Mr Holmes à Court's long-term intentions.

Mr Bruce Farmer, Morgan Crucible's managing director, said yesterday he was interested that acceptances were very far short of the levels Mr Holmes à Court was looking for.

Siebe approval

Siebe shareholders have approved the proposed acquisition through a subsidiary of Robertshaw Controls. The tender offer will close on October 21.

Commercial Bank of Wales announces that its Base Rate has been increased from 10% to 11% on 15 October 1986. Interest payable on demand Deposit Accounts will be at the net rate of 6% per annum - equivalent to a gross rate of 8.45% per annum to basic rate taxpayers. Commercial Bank of Wales PLC. Head Office: 114-116 St Mary Street, Cardiff CF1 1XJ.

COMPANY NEWS. TRANWOOD GROUP: Results for six months to July 31. Figures in £000. Turnover 3,081.1 (2,743.8). Costs of overheads less other income 2,995.2 (2,683.1). Interest 17.5 (51.6). Exceptional items: payment in former chairman 25.0 (nil). Insurance recovery and salvage credit nil (41.6). Pretax profit 43.4 (48.7). Tax 13.0 (12.2). Extraordinary items 248 (nil). Earnings per share 0.076p (0.153p). ELSWICK-HOPPER: Half-year to July 31 in £000. Sales 14,297 (14,501). Operating profit on continuing activities 112 (76). Interest payable on continuing activities 248 (233). Operating loss on activities to be discontinued 11 (profit 136). Interest payable on activities to be discontinued 205 (173). Pretax loss 342 (194 loss). No tax (nil). Loss per ordinary share 1.08p (0.73). CITY OF OXFORD INVESTMENT TRUST: Interim dividend 3p (2.5p). Dividend £279,688 (£229,180) for six months to September 30. Bank interest £64,952 (£53,338). Underwriting commission £22,310 (£18,286). Debenture interest £11,917 (£13,000). Administration £48,814 (£38,594). Net revenue before tax £306,199 (£249,210). Tax £89,812 (£76,269). Earnings per share 5.30p (4.24p). Net asset value 3.30p (4.24p). Dividend payable December 5. MINTY: Results for the 27 weeks to August 2 (26 weeks to July 27 1985). Turnover £1,698,979 (£1,387,614). Loss before tax £108,825 (£157,244 loss). No tax (nil). Extraordinary credit - profit on sale of land and buildings nil (£28,951). Loss after tax and extraordinary credit £108,825 (£28,293 loss). Loss per share 27p (38p). SVENSKA CELLULOSE: Period to August 31. Figures in Skr000s. Net sales 9,549 (7,896). Gross trading profit 1,306 (1,087). Depreciation according to plan 407 (295). Operating profit 899 (792). Dividends, interest income and expenses and other items 64 (30). Share of earnings before tax in associated companies 27 (61). Earnings before extraordinary items, appropriations and income tax 862 (823). Primary earnings per share Skr8.8 (8.6) after theoretical full tax charge and

APPOINTMENTS. British Car Auctions: Mr Tom Madden becomes director, sales and marketing. Thomson Regional Newspapers: Mr R J R Tyldesley, Mr A A Scott and Mr J K T Bryers join the board. Mechanical & Metal Trade Associations: Mr Eddie Addison is elected chairman and Mr Leonard Ashworth becomes vice-chairman. DBI Holdings Inc: Mr Roderick M Collins (UK) joins the board. Mr Gerard Troncin becomes chairman and director, and Mr Christopher Browne a director of Discount Brokers International (UK). Walker Greenbank: Mr John D Landells joins the boards of F Atkinson (Nottingham) and Varicol. Paul Steiger: Mr Reg Pearson and Mr Chris Rane have been made joint managing directors. Mr Les Birch joins the board as production director, and Mr Ian Dunn as sales director. Tunstall Group: Mr Stanley Harris becomes managing director. Tunstall Security, and Mr Martin Dowthwaite becomes director of business development, Tunstall Telecom. BASE LENDING RATES. ABN 11.00%. Adam & Company 10.00%. BCCI 11.00%. Citibank Savings 10.95%. Consolidated Credits 10.00%. Co-operative Bank 11.00%. C. Hoare & Co. 11.00%. Hong Kong & Shanghai 11.00%. Lloyds Bank 11.00%. Nat Westminster 11.00%. Royal Bank of Scotland 11.00%. TSB 11.00%. Citibank NA 11.00%. Mortgage Base Rate.

Women's place in the boardroom

The Magnificent Seven

Next Friday, the Institute of Directors will host a one-day conference on "Women on the Board", offering guidance to women executives who want to reach the top. Teresa Poole, Business Correspondent, reports.

At first the Institute of Directors thought there were eight. But one has been replaced by a man, so that leaves seven. They include a duchess, a baroness, the wife of a former Conservative Cabinet minister, and the boss's daughter. They are the only women on the boards of directors of the 100 leading British companies.

Only seven? Can those 100 companies between them really only find a need for just seven women directors?

It is a curious little team, from the highly successful career woman to the landed aristocrat. There are two executive directors, Mrs Sara Morrison at General Electric Company and Mrs Olga Polizzi, daughter of Lord Forte, at Trusthouse Forte, both of whom work full-time at their companies.

Then there are the non-executive directors, who are traditionally expected to bring with them a breadth of experience and a fresh outlook, a presence which could be provided readily by the woman in her fifties or sixties who, denied a full choice of careers, has instead busied herself in the voluntary sector or local government.

There is the Duchess of Devonshire at Tarmac; Lady Grantham, daughter of the founder, at Littlewoods; Mrs Jane Prior, wife of James, at Tate & Lyle; Mrs Diana Eccles, married to the heir of a viscount, at Sainsbury; and Mrs Detta O' Cathain, who qualifies for the team because of her non-executive position at Tesco but is better known as managing director of the Milk Marketing Board.

So is it, in part at least, just titles and nepotism after all? Are even these seven not all real directors, merely the bangles of the boardroom, paying cosmetic lip service to a changing world, the token female presence, bringing political or class clout? Would they, without the titles, the fathers, and the husbands, all really be directors of top companies?

Make no mistake, they would, or rather, could; they seem as competent and dedicated to their jobs as any male equivalent (many of whom, remember, are also blood relations or titled). But, if the top 100 companies are anything to go by, a woman has extremely little chance of being chosen if she does not have the right connections. That is the scandal.

There are still relatively few senior women who have spent the requisite number of years in industry or commerce necessary to be candidates for a directorship of a large company but even further down the rankings women directors are scarce.

Sara Morrison became one of five executive directors based at GEC's head office in 1980, some five years after



Diana Eccles



The Duchess of Devonshire



Lady Grantham



Sara Morrison



Jane Prior



Detta O' Cathain



Olga Polizzi

joining the company. She arrived via local government, the Conservative Party Central Office, and in her time has held a clutch of public appointments including positions on the Annan Committee, the National Consumer Council, and the chairmanship of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations.

She devotes considerable time and energy to visiting schools, preaching to both girls and boys about the importance of engineering. "If women get the qualifications that tomorrow's world needs, then the world is her oyster."

With one voice, these women reject suggestions that they might have had particular problems because they are female or have had difficulties with male colleagues.

Mrs Morrison says that while she wants women to "get a fair crack at the satisfying jobs", much emphasis is on her thinking supports the right to choose. "There are all sorts of women who are doing a lot more important things than the women in this article, but they have made different choices."

As the director broadly responsible for "people", Mrs Morrison admits to GEC's gentle approach to encouraging female appointments. "In certain units women are inter-

viewed for jobs and promotion who conceivably might not be if they were boys. It is partly to encourage women."

The problem most commonly cited by the seven is still the conflict of family and career. Lady Grantham, elder daughter of Sir John Moores, the founder and president of Littlewoods, has been a non-executive director of the company for nine years. Both her brothers have at some time held executive posts, but in her case, six children meant she never had that option.

Fifteen years ago, when children became less time-consuming, she enrolled herself on business courses and was later invited to join the board. Nowadays she provides considerable financial support for the Lucy Cavendish College in Cambridge which gives undergraduate places for mature women students.

"People are only going to get skillful by doing business or with a certain amount of training," she says, suggesting that the lack of top women directors is a "historical thing" because there are just not that many women available who have had the career experience.

Even among children who have grown up in a family business, it remains far more

common for sons rather than daughters to follow in the father's footsteps. Olga Polizzi started working full-time for Trust House Forte six years ago after her husband was killed in a car crash. In 1983 she was made an executive director, in charge of design and decor and responsible for the refurbishment of more than 800 hotels worldwide. But her brother is chief executive.

The shortage of successful top female businesswomen means that the novelty value is even now very high. Detta O' Cathain, who has worked at Tarmac, Carrington Vitelja, and British Leyland (to name but some past employers) is the constant choice of television, radio, and women's magazines when a successful female industrialist is needed.

Women, she agrees, have not had the breaks. "I know in my heart of hearts that I am doing my job as well as any other man with my capabilities can do. But if you make a mistake as a woman, you are remembered for it." Since her arrival at the Milk Marketing Board she has tacitly encouraged women who now hold more senior posts.

According to the Institute of Directors, government figures reveal a drop over the past decade of women in man-

agement positions, down from 9.7 per cent to 6.2 per cent in 1985. "That could be a direct correlation with unemployment. If there is competition between a man and a woman there is still a latent feeling that a man should have the job, that is his 'traditional' role," Ms O' Cathain says.

There is also the expectation that women, at least of a certain age, should fit into the supporting wife role. Jane Prior says that it was only when her husband left Northern Ireland in 1984 that she was able to consider another career.

First came an opportunity at Trustcard, the TSB's credit card company, and then in 1985 she was invited on to the board at Tate & Lyle where she knew the chairman. "I do not think it was because of him (her husband), but it might have been in spite of him," she says. Women are often thought unsuitable because of possible conflicts arising from their husband's job.

Non-executive directorships at most companies involve attending monthly board meetings, putting an effort into visiting factories and offices, and providing impartial advice. Most of these women stressed the importance of meeting the people on the ground.

"The lessons learnt in politics have been useful," says Mrs Prior.

Similarly, Diana Eccles, at Sainsbury, was chosen for wide-ranging outside interests which these days include the vice-chairmanship of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations, a directorship at Tyne-Tees Television, and chairman of Durham University Council.

The Duchess of Devonshire, the youngest of the Mitford sisters, spent three years on Tarmac's housing division board before being promoted to join the main company board. "It was an apprenticeship," she says.

She is widely credited with being the driving force behind turning the Chatsworth estate into a profitable concern, managing 70,000 acres of let houses and farms and supervising the renovation.

Recently she picked a 23-year old woman against seven male candidates to run a Chatsworth business which has a turnover of £750,000.

Detta O' Cathain, who was group economist at Tarmac in the late Sixties, was deliberately appointed by the company for her "surprise value," says the duchess.

How long will top women directors remain surprising? A similar survey of the top 100 US companies last year showed more than 60 had at least one woman on the board. The need for a title or a family connection was not apparent.

Last night, the Institute of Directors converted the Magnificent Seven into the Magnificent Nine, with the discovery that Mrs Sally Oppenheim is a non-executive director of Boots and Miss Eileen Cole is a non-executive member of the Post Office board.

COMMENT Kenneth Fleet

Governor wants players to be gentlemen

Even the Bank of England seems to be suffering from a little eleventh-hour angst as the fateful Big Bang approaches. In the last part of his Mansion House speech, Robin Leigh-Pemberton, the Governor, issued a series of broad and probably futile warnings about the risks of the new competition unleashed by the City revolution.

His main concern on this bacchanalian occasion was the commission structure of the new, deregulated markets. Market-makers and broker-dealers would be pushing for market shares as soon as the rules changed, and this could lead to an excessive and destructive bout of margin-cutting. "Some firms may overreach themselves," the Governor said. At worst this could lead to collapses or withdrawals of players.

Mr Leigh-Pemberton reiterated the Bank's often-made point that regulators are not there to prevent all wrong-headed market participants committing *hara-kiri* if that is what they are bent on doing. The purpose of regulators is to ensure the health of the markets as a whole, and if that involves allowing some players to go under, if only as a warning to others, then so be it. If market-makers find they have to withdraw from the market, that does not necessarily prove that the new system itself has failed.

But the Governor's words seem to suggest less-than-total confidence. His recipe for avoiding disasters in the new, fiercely competitive era is to limit competition by self-restraint. Since the regulators cannot do it all by themselves, "it will be vital for all market participants to exercise a degree of restraint," he said.

He is not just talking about market-makers and brokers. "I should like to see institutional investors recognize their interest in being able to deal with a wide array of soundly based intermediaries, and I hope that they will exercise restraint on their use of their bargaining power. I hope that we will continue to avoid levels of gearing in the corporate sector as a whole which, although perhaps acceptable in favourable conditions, could prove to be seriously destabilizing when times become harder."

This sounds strikingly like the classic Bank of England plea for a gentlemanly and orderly market maintained by the far-sightedness of the players themselves. That, however, is precisely the kind of world away from which the City is moving with increasing rapidity. More than ever, it is "the system" which will have to take the strain as the demands of competition turns gentlemen into hustlers. If the new system itself cannot cope, self-restraint will not be enough and ultimately the system will have to be improved.

The most important event by far of the past few years, according to the Stock Exchange chairman, Sir Nicholas Goodison, is not Big Bang, but the merger between the Stock Exchange and members of the International Securities Regulatory Organisation.

"It will be seen as the culmination of many years of effort to strengthen the position of London in the international market-place," he told the guests. Throughout the late 1970s and the early years of this decade, Sir Nicholas has fought for the over-

riding principle that the integrity of securities trading in one market should be maintained.

The risks were spotted a long time ago. The loss of London's leading role in the trading of South African gold shares some years ago highlighted the dangers in a fragmentation of trading in London.

The removal of exchange controls in the autumn of 1979 was both a boon and a threat. It opened the doors to greater foreign involvement in London, but allowed everyone to deal wherever they were able to find the best terms and the best service.

The Stock Exchange-Isro merger, said Sir Nicholas, "will enable the many issuers of securities and dealers in securities in London to come together to develop the securities markets, to share the costs of the necessary technological systems and to ensure the consistent and high standards which will attract business to London."

Together, the two bodies have a chance to thrive. Apart, London as a key financial centre would have struggled.

Granada scores a first

The bought deal is clearly gaining ground as a financing device in the City of London. Just 10 days before Big Bang, Granada has scored a first by inviting tenders for a vendor placing to finance its acquisition of Laskys. And as an interesting forerunner of competition to come from overseas institutions in the bracing new world after October 27, the winner was the American investment bank, Saloman Brothers International.

The race was a three-horse affair between Saloman and two British runners. Saloman is as pleased as punch. It tendered on a tight margin of 282p per share, against a closing price for Granada the previous day of 284p. It has placed the shares and made a profit. Granada shares were firm yesterday at 282p.

Granada is also happy. The normal discount on a vendor placing is 6 per cent to 9 per cent, but in this case the discount was under 1 per cent.

The fact that the new shares for which Saloman tendered represent only 4.2 per cent of Granada's present equity was a big factor in the tight pricing. The bought deal clearly comes into its own for deals on the scale of Laskys. It is quick, cheap and too small to upset institutions who champion the cause of shareholder democracy.

Institutional pressure has grown for a clawback facility to enable all shareholders to take part in large vendor placings. The institutional lobby had a powerful effect on Dee Corporation's placing for Herman Sporting Goods and Boots' placing for Flint Laboratories. The discounts in both cases therefore widened to nearer those of conventional rights issues at 15 per cent plus.

The British have yet to make their mark in the bought deal field. Saloman, in conjunction with Hoare Govett, won the tender to place Guinness's £108 million holding in BP. Goldman Sachs won the Philip Hill Investment Trust portfolio after Robert Maxwell's successful bid.

It will be a question of watch this space after October 27.

TEMPUS

Micro Focus over the worst

When the computer manufacturers caught a cold two years ago, the software producer, Micro Focus, caught pneumonia, a nasty illness but, fortunately for the company, not necessarily a fatal one.

Interim results for the six months to July 31 show how much careful nursing can contribute to halting the progress of the disease.

Turnover was virtually static at £5.65 million, but pretax losses were reduced from £2.8 million in the first half of last year to £480 million.

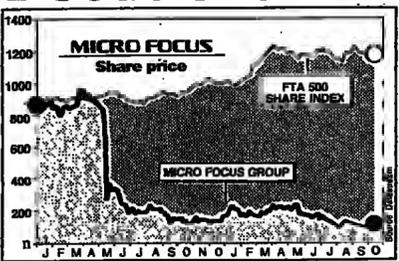
The key to reducing losses has been to cut costs. This has meant cutting staff, a painful exercise, but the headcount is down 22 per cent from 316 in January last year to 247.

The group is concentrating on maintaining and improving its cash flow while further developing its product range. A big growth area has been VS COBOL Workbench software, which allows customers to use microprocessors as programmer workstations. Workbench now represents 27 per cent of Micro Focus's business, compared with 10 per cent last year.

The company is also reorientating its marketing and sales strategy to cope with changes in the market place. It is now making more sales direct to users, rather than to the manufacturers of the equipment.

In the United States, by far its most important market comprising 47 per cent of sales, direct sales were 68 per cent of US turnover, compared with 56 per cent in the same period last year.

To make a full recovery to profitability, however, there needs to be a change in the climate for computer sales.



While there is some evidence of improvement, as new orders catch on and microprocessors filter down the hierarchy, the weak investment climate in the US is a big negative.

The cash haemorrhage at Micro Focus has stopped, and the debt/equity ratio has improved to 44 per cent.

When the recovery comes, the company should do well.

Strong & Fisher/Garnar Booth

Saks, Fifth Avenue is crying out for clothes made from Strong & Fisher's high quality leathers.

The identification of this growth sector has been an important factor in the group's recovery since the beginning of the decade.

Others in the industry have not fared so well. Although Garnar Booth has made a virtue of the fact that it serves a wide range of customers, the fragmentation of the market has placed considerable pressure on its management.

Profits have fallen from a 1984-1985 peak of £4.5 mil-

lion to a current year forecast of £309,000. Although it has recognized the need to rationalize, action has not been taken fast enough to prevent an opportunistic bid from Strong & Fisher.

Uncured skins do not travel well. At present, Strong & Fisher buys high quality skins in the south of England and Wales. The acquisition of Garnar Booth would give it access to raw material in Scotland and the North.

Strong & Fisher's plans for Garnar Booth may involve the disposal of some smaller businesses. This would reduce the high debt levels (at least 120 per cent) which will ensue if the bid succeeds.

Good husbandry could bring this down to nearer 50 per cent in the year to June 1988. Even so, a rights issue may be around the corner.

A better year from both businesses could mean that dilution in 1986-1987 could be kept comfortably within single figures.

Strong & Fisher is paying an exit p/e ratio which is more than four times the normal rating for shares in the sector. However, Garnar Booth's profits are especially depressed and Strong and

Fisher has dealt the ultimate insult of hiding below asset value. (Garnar Booth's properties are in the books at very modest levels)

Leaving aside the wild cards of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission and a white knight (perhaps in the shape of Hillside Holdings) Strong & Fisher will probably have to pay a bit more to secure its prize.

Hargreaves/Coalite

Whether or not the new £100 million bid from Coalite is enough to win over Hargreaves Group, it has at least cleared the air for shareholders in the energy, materials and vehicle distribution firm.

The new offer, decisively higher than Coalite's opening shot and, at 18 times Hargreaves' 1986 earnings, is likely to have deterred the white knights.

Institutions weighing up the bid of 275p a share have also a full cash alternative. They might well go for the cash offer given the City's general unflattering view of Coalite's management. Although Coalite shares held up yesterday, they might start to ease soon as shareholders' question the wisdom of a 13.7 per cent scrip dilution to buy a similar company. If that happens, selling will become an attractive option.

The Hargreaves board has a difficult task to wring loyalty out of its shareholders. Its shares have outperformed the general market for almost two years even before Coalite triggered further sharp advances at a time when the short-term profit outlook looked dull.

TSB pulls lower paid investors

By Richard Thomson Banking Correspondent

More investors from lower income groups bought Trustee Savings Bank shares than British Telecom shares, according to research carried out when the TSB share offer closed last month. There were also more TSB applicants in the youngest age group, 18 to 34, than there were on the BT issue.

The TSB share register is still being compiled and no analysis has yet been carried out on the social composition of the shareholders. But surveys by Dewe Rogerson, the public relations firm, generate an accurate picture of who applied for shares, the firm claims.

The data are taken from a sample of 2,000 people who had applied already - or who said they were certain to apply - for TSB shares.

Thirty-eight per cent of applicants were from the C2 and DE categories, 2 percentage points more than the same categories applying for BT shares. Slightly fewer C1s applied for TSB shares than did for BT shares but exactly the same proportion, 38 per cent, of ABs were applicants in both issues.

A Dewe Rogerson spokesman said attitudes to investing in the stock market as a whole had not changed much so far, but that there was a growing trend among lower income groups for investing in privatized companies.

The best represented age group among TSB applicants were the 35 to 54 year olds, at 38 per cent, 43 per cent from this age group bought BT shares.

Property Holding & Investment Trust PLC

To the Ordinary shareholders of PHIT

YOUR BOARD STRONGLY ADVISES YOU NOT TO TENDER YOUR SHARES TO APEX GROUP LIMITED

- The offer represents an unsatisfactory attempt to obtain a measure of back door control over PHIT.
- Your Board will write shortly to explain in detail why this offer should be ignored.

Compromise
Billion Bill
up expands
f-catering
neighbours
BASE LENDING RATES

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Main table containing unit trust information with columns for fund names, prices, and changes. Includes sections for 'UNIT TRUST MANAGERS', 'UNLISTED SECURITIES', and 'INVESTMENT TRUSTS'.

UNLISTED SECURITIES

Table of unlisted securities with columns for company name, price, and change.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Table of investment trusts with columns for trust name, price, and change.

COMMODITIES

Table of commodity prices for various goods like oil, metals, and grains.

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

Table of financial trusts with columns for trust name, price, and change.

Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom center of the page.

WALL STREET

Shares in early drive

New York (Reuters) - Wall Street shares pushed ahead in early trading yesterday, extending the gains made the previous day. Transport shares continued to provide steady support and utilities saw mild gains.

The Dow Jones industrial average was up 6.05 points to 1,837.74. Advancing issues led by a margin of four to one. The volume rose to 15 million shares.

A T & T led the active shares, rising 1/4 to 25. E J Nabisco jumped 1 1/2 to 52 1/2.

Table with columns for company names and stock prices. Includes companies like AMR, AIG, Alcoa, and various industrial stocks.

COMPANY NEWS

HOUSE OF LEROSE: Half-year to June 30 (figures in £000). Interim dividend 3p (same). Turnover 8,995 (£8,774 restated), pretax profit 755 (£312) and eps 8.3p (2.9p).

GARNER BOOTH: The company has rejected the bid from Strong and Fisher. Half-year results show pretax loss of £24,000 on turnover of £37 million. The board is to declare an interim dividend of 3.35p.

DELVY PACKAGING: Interim dividend 1p (same), payable on December 5. Six months to August 3 (figures in £000). Turnover 2,693 (£2,671), profit before tax 43 (£70 loss) and eps 2.16p (3.5p loss).

SINGAPORE PARA RUBBER ESTATES: Six months to June 30. Turnover £285,675 (£240,888) gross profit £76,771 (£41,144). Dretax profit £47,414 (£130,747) and eps 0.29p (0.88p).

HUNTERPRINT GROUP: The company has been awarded the contract for the printing of the weekly colour sections of News on Sunday to be launched next spring.

UNITED CERAMIC DISTRIBUTORS: Half-year to June 30. Interim dividend 1p (same), payable on December 15. Turnover £4,189,069 (£3,726,908), profit before tax £127,865 (£116,062) and eps 3.3p (3.1p).

DI DAVIES: The chairman, Mr David Davies, said at the annual meeting that prospects for the coming year were very exciting. The company has been commissioned to design a new £23 million ice rink, library and office development for Tarmac Properties in Brighton.

YOUR OWN BUSINESS

A new loan-while-you-learn scheme

By Derek Harris

Changes are being planned to two of the Department of Employment's Action for Jobs schemes, which could mean greater help for those with small businesses.

The initiatives are being considered by David Trippier, minister for small businesses, who has just started talks with the high-street banks on a variation of the career-development loans scheme.

HELENE OF LONDON: Six months to June 30. Interim dividend 0.5p (same). Figures in £000. Turnover 12,390 (£10,254), profit before tax 480 (£634), pretax profit 170 (£146), pretax profit 101 (£146) and eps 1.06p (0.98p).

CONRAD HOLDINGS: Six months to June 30 (period to August 31). Interim dividend 1p (nil). Figures in £000. Turnover 3,522 (£3,894), group profit 170 (£146), pretax profit 101 (£146) and eps 1.06p (0.98p).

AGB RESEARCH: The chairman reported that action had been taken and progress achieved in dealing with those areas of the business which had fallen below expectations last year. It was expected that Australian results would show improvement in spite of trading conditions which were weaker than in previous years.

LOWE HOWARD-SPINK & BELL: Agreement has been reached for the acquisition of Richard Publications, which trades as Wight Company.

UNITED SPRING & STEEL GROUP: Acceptances have been received for a total of 2,480,336 shares (91.5 per cent of the offer). The remainder of 230,014 shares has been sold in the market at 68c.

MR FRIDAY: He knew a lot about fish-farming but also enough to realize that too many were moving into it for comfort.

Now, at 32, he is worrying about the dangers of too-rapid expansion in his own new business, dealing only partly in fish, which is expected to reach a turnover this year of £250,000.

In the Thames Valley on the eastern border of Gloucestershire, Minola Smoked Products is one of a handful of businesses in Britain, which by entirely traditional methods smokes with oak logs a variety of food, from quails eggs to wild Scottish salmon. Other fish, including shellfish, most game birds, meats ranging from venison to gammons and salami and even some cheeses are smoked.

He is scornful of more mass-production methods of preparing smoked foods by using sawdust, sometimes indiscriminately mixed, with gas burners to speed processing. His moderately sized oak logs, cut locally, ensure the use of a high proportion of the outer 1 inch of living wood, which contains the elements that impart the almost-forgotten traditional flavours that bring the customers back for more.

His wife, Jane, learnt about traditional smoking, each in turn in the first year benefiting from the Enterprise Allowance Scheme's £40 a week. But buildings at the edge of a disused airfield had to be converted, equipment bought, stock - none of it as frozen supplies - financed and as the trade developed, a computer installed.

He was lucky with his bank manager



"It's always the same - there's never one around when you need one"

Bank and the Co-operative Bank mostly the main partners with the Clydesdale Bank going in with Barclays in Aberdeen.

The idea is to provide loans of up to £5,000 for vocational training to improve career and job prospects. Courses selected can last up to a year.

Anybody getting a loan pays no interest during the training, nor for up to three months afterwards. Minimum for loans has been pitched at £500 but Mr Trippier believes this should be brought down to £300 and his talks with the banks are aimed at introducing this greater flexibility. Some existing courses cost less than £500.

The enterprise programme provides management training for business owners and managers, including those about to start up. Mr Trippier is considering a pilot scheme to get more to take these courses, possibly involving local enterprise agencies, which could give a hand-drafted service for small businesses for a year.

Distance-learning courses would be another way to widen the scheme's appeal, one aim being to encourage more women to take part. The courses, which teach finance and marketing skills and include the use of "action learning" groups to sort out common problems, are funded by the Manpower Services Commission.

Minola relies mostly on selling to hotels and restaurants. But Troutbeck Forte, Britain's largest hotel chain, has made it a recommended supplier. And a mail-order business is growing so fast that the couple are worrying over production capacity, although at the same time they are negotiating for a by-air export contract to firm up the base of the business.

Hugh said: "All my advice now is to consolidate. So the aim is increased turnover at a gentler and more stable pace. That overhead has to be got down." But he is planning the next move. "If", he said, "there was somebody working through the night, there could be a dramatic increase in throughput."

It could be earlier than he is bargaining for the latest caller at remote Kenot Hill has been a buyer from one of the biggest national supermarket chains.

One thing he is sure about. The only way to find the smokery, lying in woodland off a minor road, is by looking for a blue plastic bag wrapped around a fencepost by a rough track. "That", he said, "stays where it is. We can't cope with anybody and everybody beating a path to this doorstep. Not yet."

Success note: Original Norfolk Punch, the small company which produces a non-alcoholic punch to an old monks' recipe ('Your Own Business', August 8) has had a trial order from Mitsubishi, the Japanese engineering group, for its expanding health-foods subsidiary. The Norfolk-based punch producer, which has negotiated an option for Mitsubishi to distribute the drink in the Far East, hopes the trial could lead eventually to its doubling production.

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MSC payments have a £15,000 ceiling.

RECENT ISSUES

Table of recent issues including companies like Anglo Suez, Anglo Suez (115p), Anglo Suez (125p), Anglo Suez (130p), Anglo Suez (135p), Anglo Suez (140p), Anglo Suez (145p), Anglo Suez (150p), Anglo Suez (155p), Anglo Suez (160p), Anglo Suez (165p), Anglo Suez (170p), Anglo Suez (175p), Anglo Suez (180p), Anglo Suez (185p), Anglo Suez (190p), Anglo Suez (195p), Anglo Suez (200p).

EQUITIES

Table of equities including companies like Anglo Suez, Anglo Suez (115p), Anglo Suez (125p), Anglo Suez (130p), Anglo Suez (135p), Anglo Suez (140p), Anglo Suez (145p), Anglo Suez (150p), Anglo Suez (155p), Anglo Suez (160p), Anglo Suez (165p), Anglo Suez (170p), Anglo Suez (175p), Anglo Suez (180p), Anglo Suez (185p), Anglo Suez (190p), Anglo Suez (195p), Anglo Suez (200p).

RIGHTS ISSUES

Table of rights issues including companies like Anglo Suez, Anglo Suez (115p), Anglo Suez (125p), Anglo Suez (130p), Anglo Suez (135p), Anglo Suez (140p), Anglo Suez (145p), Anglo Suez (150p), Anglo Suez (155p), Anglo Suez (160p), Anglo Suez (165p), Anglo Suez (170p), Anglo Suez (175p), Anglo Suez (180p), Anglo Suez (185p), Anglo Suez (190p), Anglo Suez (195p), Anglo Suez (200p).

MR FRIDAY

It's always the same - there's never one around when you need one

MR FRIDAY: He knew a lot about fish-farming but also enough to realize that too many were moving into it for comfort.

Now, at 32, he is worrying about the dangers of too-rapid expansion in his own new business, dealing only partly in fish, which is expected to reach a turnover this year of £250,000.

In the Thames Valley on the eastern border of Gloucestershire, Minola Smoked Products is one of a handful of businesses in Britain, which by entirely traditional methods smokes with oak logs a variety of food, from quails eggs to wild Scottish salmon. Other fish, including shellfish, most game birds, meats ranging from venison to gammons and salami and even some cheeses are smoked.

He is scornful of more mass-production methods of preparing smoked foods by using sawdust, sometimes indiscriminately mixed, with gas burners to speed processing. His moderately sized oak logs, cut locally, ensure the use of a high proportion of the outer 1 inch of living wood, which contains the elements that impart the almost-forgotten traditional flavours that bring the customers back for more.

His wife, Jane, learnt about traditional smoking, each in turn in the first year benefiting from the Enterprise Allowance Scheme's £40 a week. But buildings at the edge of a disused airfield had to be converted, equipment bought, stock - none of it as frozen supplies - financed and as the trade developed, a computer installed.

He was lucky with his bank manager

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FOREIGN EXCHANGES

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Table of sterling spot and forward rates for various currencies including US Dollar, Swiss Franc, German Mark, Japanese Yen, etc.

OTHER STERLING RATES

Table of other sterling rates for various currencies including Australian Dollar, Bahraini Dinar, Brazilian Cruzeiro, Cypriot Pound, etc.

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Table of dollar spot rates for various currencies including Australian Dollar, Bahraini Dinar, Brazilian Cruzeiro, Cypriot Pound, etc.

Rates supplied by Barclays Bank HOPEX and Ecolat.

MONEY MARKET AND GOLD

Rates were firmer, principally at the short end, for much of the session - under the influence of tighter money. The longer dates saw little action, with operators standing back to await the Chancellor's speech. Local authorities rarely showed interest. Euro-dollar deposits remained largely unaffected by the latest US economic data, dealers reporting only routine activity.

Repo Rates %
Clearing Banks 11
Finance House 10

Discount Market Loans %
Overnight High 11 Low 0
Week fixed: 10%

Treasury Bills (Discount %)
3 month 10 1/2% 2 month 10%
6 month 10%

Prime Bank Bills (Discount %)
1 month 11% 2 month 11%
3 month 10 1/2% 6 month 10 1/2%

Trade Bills (Discount %)
1 month 11% 2 month 11%
3 month 11% 6 month 11%

Overnight open 11% close 7
1 week 11% 1 1/2% 11% 11%
1 month 11% 1 1/2% 11% 11%
3 month 11% 1 1/2% 11% 11%

Local Authority Deposits (%)
2 days 11% 7 days 11%
1 month 11% 3 month 11%
6 month 11% 12 month 11%

Local Authority Bonds (%)
1 month 11% 3 month 11%
6 month 11% 12 month 11%

Shelf Trans (%)
1 month 11% 3 month 11%
6 month 11% 12 month 11%

Shelf Trans (%)
1 month 11% 3 month 11%
6 month 11% 12 month 11%

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1 month 11% 3 month 11%
6 month 11% 12 month 11%

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table of London financial futures including Three Month Sterling, Six Month Sterling, etc.

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

Table of traditional options including First Dealings, Last Dealings, Last Declaration, For Settlement.

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

Table of London traded options including Allied Lyons, BP, Coca Cola, etc.

EURO MONEY DEPOSITS %

Table of Euro money deposits for various currencies including Dollar, Swiss Franc, etc.

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BRIEFING

A new grant scheme, Managing Company Expansion (MACE) - which has been highly successful in pilot experiments - is now available nationally through area training offices of the Manpower Services Commission.

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Richard Cound BMW. 1986 318i4dr, 1984 318i4dr, 1984 318i4dr, 1984 318i4dr, 1984 318i4dr.

BMW 333i. 1987 333i, 1987 333i, 1987 333i, 1987 333i, 1987 333i.

BMW AUTHORISED DEALERS. BMW 318i4dr, BMW 318i4dr, BMW 318i4dr, BMW 318i4dr.

BMW WANTED. BMW 318i4dr, BMW 318i4dr, BMW 318i4dr, BMW 318i4dr.

PORSCHE. 1983 911 Turbo, 1983 911 Turbo, 1983 911 Turbo, 1983 911 Turbo.

PORSCHE WANTED. 1983 911 Turbo, 1983 911 Turbo, 1983 911 Turbo, 1983 911 Turbo.

GRANGE SERVICES PORSCHE 944. 1984 944, 1984 944, 1984 944, 1984 944.

TURBO BODIED 911 CARRERA 1986. 1986 Carrera, 1986 Carrera, 1986 Carrera, 1986 Carrera.

DICKSONS OF PERTH. 1984 911 Turbo, 1984 911 Turbo, 1984 911 Turbo, 1984 911 Turbo.

911 TURBO'S. 1986 911 Turbo, 1986 911 Turbo, 1986 911 Turbo, 1986 911 Turbo.

SOUTH HEREFORD GARAGES LTD. 1986 911 Turbo, 1986 911 Turbo, 1986 911 Turbo, 1986 911 Turbo.

COMPUTER-PORSCHE. 1983 911 Turbo, 1983 911 Turbo, 1983 911 Turbo, 1983 911 Turbo.

ALFA ROMEO. 1986 164, 1986 164, 1986 164, 1986 164.

LISTERS FOR QUATRO. 1984 Quattro, 1984 Quattro, 1984 Quattro, 1984 Quattro.

JAGUAR & DAIMLER. 1984 Jaguar, 1984 Jaguar, 1984 Jaguar, 1984 Jaguar.

DAIMLER SOVEREIGN 4.2. 1984 Daimler, 1984 Daimler, 1984 Daimler, 1984 Daimler.

ROLLS ROYCE & BENTLEY. 1986 Phantom, 1986 Phantom, 1986 Phantom, 1986 Phantom.

ROLLS ROYCE SILVER SPIRIT. 1986 Silver Spirit, 1986 Silver Spirit, 1986 Silver Spirit, 1986 Silver Spirit.

ROLLS ROYCE SILVER SHADOW II. 1986 Silver Shadow II, 1986 Silver Shadow II, 1986 Silver Shadow II, 1986 Silver Shadow II.

ROLLS ROYCE & BENTLEY WANTED. 1986 Phantom, 1986 Phantom, 1986 Phantom, 1986 Phantom.

RUGBY UNION: THE MEN WHO ARE PLAYING JASON JUST FOR THE KICKS

Argonauts not out to fleece



Woodward: still serving in the game's "Foreign Legion"

Whitewash stars stay evergreen

By George Ace. The composition of the Irish team who will spend two days training at Lansdowne Road this weekend for the international against Romania in Dublin on November 1 - the team will be selected tonight - suggests that the side will be much on the lines of that which achieved a whitewash in last season's championship.

By Chris Thau. Rugby players are the modern-day Argonauts. They travel the world over in search of new lands, people, friendship, new challenges and sometimes that elusive spirit of the game.

With the French unable to tour the Republic, South African players have been particularly keen to measure their strength against the Latin players within the highly competitive French set-up.

Reasons as mixed as nationalities

The reasons for playing in France vary as much as the nationality of the travellers. Desai Spring of Ireland played for Bagnères until recently; two West German internationals, Thomas Kurth and Klaus Himmel, have joined a second division club, Rives-Rejan; Willie Jefferson, the former Harlequin, left American shores for a second season with Perpignan; and Australia's Peter Fitzsimmons has won the admiration of the French for an impressive season for Brive last year.

Injuries hit Coventry

Warwickshire, the champions, are now the only county in the Midlands group of the Thorn EMU championship able to call on a first-class club - and Coventry might be regretting it.

Gray aims to break Welsh mould

By Gerald Davies. It is a temptation, with the World Cup so prominent in the background, to consider the elements of the season in the light of what is to come in May and June.

Davies lifts siege on Milfield pack

An intriguing encounter between the Lansdowne pack and the Milfield backs resulted in victory for Milfield (29-24), although Lansdowne missed two penalty chances near the posts in the closing stages.

Schools Rugby by Michael Stevenson

The four tourists with Lancashire Schools in Australia during the summer were the outstanding players in Stossall's 3-0 victory over Stoneyhurst. The South twins and Merrick in the second half were all very impressive.

MERIT TABLE A. Table with columns: Bath, Wasps, Saracens, Nottingham, Worcester, Bristol, Moseley, Sale, Coventry, London, Gloucester. Rows: P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts.

MERIT TABLE B. Table with columns: Northampton, L/Si Helen, Waterloo, Saracens, Bedford, Richmond, Huddersfield, Reading, Luton, Worcester, Gloucester. Rows: P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts.

MERIT TABLE C. Table with columns: Vale of Llaneidwr, Penryn, Northampton, Worcester, Gloucester, Reading, Huddersfield, Bedford, Richmond, Saracens, Waterloo, L/Si Helen, Northampton. Rows: P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts.



Pat Butcher celebrates the centenarian given a new lease of life by artificial resuscitation

Hockey sticks have never been jollier

Many people would be inclined to scoff at men's hockey if the players did not wield those lethal-looking sticks. But the "knobby knees" image and the notion that it was a game for, well, women, started to take a few knocks when Britain won the Olympic bronze medal two years ago. And it has been right off the Astroturf this week at Willesden, where England have had their best-ever World Cup by reaching the last four.

They have an even chance of beating West Germany in tomorrow's semi-final and qualifying to meet either the super-fit Aussies (sounds familiar) or the Soviet Union in Sunday's final. A victory for England there would be the perfect centenary present.

For, in common with many of the sports that Britain has passed on to the world (and then seen the world pass it by), the Hockey Association were founded 100 years ago. There were six London teams, plus Trinity College, Cambridge, represented at the inaugural meeting in a restaurant in Holborn, and although the preponderance is not so weighty these days, the South can still boast over a third of the clubs and players

in the country, which is split into four zones.

Eight hundred clubs, with 50,000 players (there are about the same number of women who play) dispute their network of league matches in the North, South, Midlands and East every Saturday. The eventual winners go into an inter-league competition in spring, although, as with football, the hockey season, which used to finish in March, has crept into early May.

The club who finished on top of the pile earlier this year was East Grinstead, from Sussex, which just happens to be the club graced by the England goalkeeper, Ian Taylor, and the forward, Richard Leman. But that southern domination is even more evident in the current England squad. Only three of the 16, Imran Sherwani, Paul Bolland and Norman Hughes, are from teams outside London and the South.

One hundred years ago it was, of course, a "gentlemen's" game, and the considered opinion around Willesden this week was that hockey is still played by "a bunch of decent chaps". It is always nice to get a profuse apology after a crack on the shin. The element of "class" still

remains when you have a colonel as secretary-general of the association but, weighing the balance, Dennis Egan takes his orders from a president (Phil Appleyard) who is a fish merchant from Grimsby.

The British Army, which has been blamed for many things, is held responsible for "giving the game away." During the Raj the Indians were introduced to hockey, with the result that when the game was first contested at the Olympics in 1928 India promptly won the gold medal.

In recent years it has been the neighbouring Pakistanis who have dominated. But the Army retrieves a little favour by being responsible for the democratization of the sport when many of the "other ranks" started playing it during and after the war. And the influx of Asians into Britain has done a sort of "Raj to return", with Sherwani and Kulbir Bhaura being two of the eventual products playing for England.

But there is still reliance on a high percentage of players coming through the public school system, as the profiles below indicate. And Phil Appleyard admits that one of the problems of capitalizing on the enormous publicity being generated by England's success is how to make

the game even more democratic.

There has been movement into the comprehensive, which has been helped by the introduction of synthetic pitches, which makes all the difference between sharing a bumpy soccer-cum-rugby pitch. But it depends so much on individual teachers being hockey players, and often they're not very good, so they can only take the kids up to a certain level.

"We've appointed a development officer for the London boroughs and we would hope to extend it around the country.

The introduction of the synthetic pitch (Montreal in 1976 was the first Olympics and Willesden the first World Cup not on grass) seems to have marked the turning point for Asian dominance although, despite the poor showing by India and Pakistan last week — "a national disaster for them," Appleyard says — the Pakistanis are still Olympic champions.

Appleyard continues: "Partly through a lack of artificial surfaces in their countries, the Asians haven't adapted to the new game. Artificial turf has meant a whole new breed of player. They still look to individual flair, whereas we've dragoned the game and become very organized, which is the perfect answer to individual flair."

That dragoning sounds a bit suspicious, if you think of how that well-organized England football team won the 1966 World Cup and did a lot to kill off entertaining football in the process. But the beauty of hockey is that it is accessible to football enthusiasts.

CRICKET

Umpiring dispute overshadows Kapil Dev's injury

From Richard Streeton, Bombay

Australia were unable to muster as large a total as they might have wished in the second Test resumed at 217 for two. Marsh survived some anxious moments against Kulkarni, who again bowled with plenty of hostility, before he reached his second Test hundred. He snuck a catch to first slip to Kulkarni's next over to end 370 but his appearance there must have been harder graft than any he has ever done on his father's wheat farm near Perth.

Borner was always trying to keep the score moving but was undone by a beautifully flighted ball from Marsh. Marsh, though, though Marsh only managed the stumping at his second attempt. Yadav was the best Indian spinner and shortly after lunch took two wickets in 19 balls. Matthews, playing back, got a ball to sweep sharply against any other during the day, and Waugh played on.

Ritchie, the last of the recognised batsmen, found himself tied down by the spinners and eventually ran himself out. Zaheer made some forceful strokes before he fell to a marvellous return catch by Maninder Singh.

When India started, Srikanth took 12 from Gilbert's first over, including a hook for six. These runs took the batsman playing his twentieth Test. He made several ambitious sweeps against the spinners and finally paid the penalty when Marsh at backward square leg clung to a low chance off Bright.

ABSTRACTION: First Innings
 D C Boon c Gavaskar b Kulkarni 101
 D M Jones c sub b Yadav 25
 D R Borner c More b Maninder 45
 G M Franche run out 28
 G R J Matthews b Yadav 29
 J J Singh b Kulkarni 21
 D R Gilbert c sub b Yadav 1
 A A Reid not out 27
 Total 345

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-76, 2-151, 3-241, 4-252, 5-295, 6-304, 7-308, 8-340, 9-340, 10-340.

SECOND INNINGS: Kulkarni 23-2-85-5, Kapil Dev 61-18-4, Shastri 42-15-58-2, Yadav 41-4-84-4, Maninder 30-12-100-0, 0-0-0.

INDIA: First Innings
 K Shastri c sub b Borner 24
 S M Gavaskar not out 20
 K S More not out 7
 Zaheer 61-15-6
 Total (1 wk) 61

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-51
 D Vengalkar, M Amarnath, M Shastri, R J Shastri, S N Yadav, R R Kulkarni and Maninder Singh to be bowled.

BOWLING (to date): Reid 6-0-18-0; Gilbert 3-1-17-0; Matthews 8-2-20-0; Singh 5-3-5-1.

Sydney Friskin takes a look at England's World Cup squad



Ian Taylor
 Playing position: Goalkeeper.
 Born: September 24, 1954; Bromsgrove.
 Education: Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Huddersfield, and Brough Road College, Lives at Ashurst Wood, Sussex.
 Married with two sons.
 Professions: Teacher.
 Special interests: Antiques, woodturning, photography.
 Club: East Grinstead.
 England caps: 78. Great Britain caps: 49. Bronze medal winner, 1984 Olympic Games.



John Hurst
 Playing position: Goalkeeper.
 Born: December 24, 1951; St Albans.
 Education: St Albans Grammar School (now Verdun School) and Furzedown College, London University. Lives at St Albans. Married with two daughters.
 Professions: Teacher.
 Special interests: Music, reading, DIY.
 Club: St Albans.
 England caps: 37. Great Britain caps: 0.



Paul Barber
 Playing position: Full back.
 Born: May 21, 1955; Peterborough.
 Education: King's School, Peterborough. Lives at Thetford, Berkshire. Married with two sons.
 Professions: Quantity surveyor.
 Special interests: Golf, music, travelling, squash.
 Club: Slough.
 England caps: 85. Great Britain caps: 38. Bronze medal winner, 1984 Olympic Games.



David Faulkner
 Playing position: Full back or centre half.
 Born: July 13, 1959; Westport, Portsmouth.
 Education: Brunel Park School, Gosport. Lives at Farnham, Hampshire. Married.
 Professions: Sales executive.
 Special interests: Cricket, reading, squash.
 Club: Havant.
 England caps: 37. Great Britain caps: 23.



Paul Bolland
 Playing position: Full back.
 Born: March 13, 1964; Westport.
 Education: Easingwold School and Loughborough College. Lives at Easingwold, York. Single.
 Professions: Electronics technician.
 Special interests: Squash, electronics.
 Club: York.
 England caps: 2. Great Britain caps: 6.



Jonathan Potter
 Playing position: Right half.
 Born: November 19, 1955; London.
 Education: Burnham Grammar School and Southampton University. Lives at Slough. Single.
 Professions: Student.
 Special interests: Music, photography.
 Club: Hounslow.
 England caps: 27. Great Britain caps: 41. Bronze medal winner, 1984 Olympic Games.



Richard Dodds
 Playing position: Centre half.
 Born: February 23, 1959; York.
 Education: Kingsthorpe Grammar School, St Catherine's College, Cambridge, and St Thomas's Hospital Medical School, London. Lives in London. Married.
 Professions: Doctor.
 Special interests: Cricket, golf, squash.
 Club: Southgate.
 England caps: 63. Great Britain caps: 28. Bronze medal winner, 1984 Olympic Games.



Martyn Grimley
 Playing position: Forward.
 Born: January 24, 1963; Halifax.
 Education: Crewe School and Alsager College of Higher Education. Lives at Sale, Single.
 Professions: Teacher.
 Special interests: Tennis, volleyball.
 Club: Brooklands.
 England caps: 19. Great Britain caps: 5.



Stephen Batchelor
 Playing position: Outside right.
 Born: June 22, 1961; Bears Green.
 Education: Millfield School, Lives at Horley, Surrey. Single.
 Professions: Sports administrator.
 Special interests: Tennis, opera.
 Club: Southgate.
 England caps: 14. Great Britain caps: 35. Bronze medal winner, 1984 Olympic Games.



Richard Leman
 Playing position: Forward.
 Born: April 9, 1962; Stoke-on-Trent.
 Education: Gresham's School. Lives at East Grinstead. Single.
 Professions: Contracts manager in computer search and selection.
 Special interests: Flying.
 Club: East Grinstead.
 England caps: 67. Great Britain caps: 34. Bronze medal winner, 1984 Olympic Games.



Sean Kerly
 Playing position: Centre forward.
 Born: January 29, 1960; Here Bay.
 Education: Chatham House School, Ramsgate. Lives at Horley, Surrey. Single.
 Professions: Transport manager.
 Special interests: Films, golf, windsurfing.
 Club: Watford.
 England caps: 21. Great Britain caps: 37. Bronze medal winner, 1984 Olympic Games.



Norman Hughes
 Playing position: Forward.
 Born: September 30, 1952; Crewe.
 Education: Crewe County Grammar School and Leeds University. Lives at Dewsbury, West Yorkshire. Married with a daughter and a son.
 Professions: Marketing manager.
 Special interests: Coaching hockey, cricket, DIY, gardening.
 Club: Watford.
 England caps: 103. Great Britain caps: 26. Bronze medal winner, 1984 Olympic Games.



Kulbir Singh Bhaura
 Playing position: Centre forward.
 Born: October 15, 1955; Jullundur, India.
 Education: Featherstone Secondary School and Islworth Polytechnic College. Lives at Cotterley, Middlesex. Single.
 Professions: Computer systems analyst.
 Special interests: Badminton.
 Club: Indian Gymkhana.
 England caps: 70. Great Britain caps: 27. Bronze medal winner, 1984 Olympic Games.



Robert Cliff
 Playing position: Inside forward.
 Born: August 1, 1962; Newport, Gwent.
 Education: Bablake School and Coventry University. Lives at Coventry. Single.
 Professions: Bank clerk.
 Special interests: Cricket, golf, the stock market.
 Club: Hounslow.
 England caps: 39. Great Britain caps: 12.



John Shaw
 Playing position: Inside right.
 Born: April 24, 1962; Penang, Malaysia.
 Education: Bishop Wordsworth School and Farnborough College. Lives at King's Lynn. Single.
 Professions: Sports trade.
 Special interests: Films, golf, squash, tennis.
 Club: Hounslow.
 England caps: 20. Great Britain caps: 11.



Imran Sherwani
 Playing position: Forward.
 Born: April 9, 1962; Stoke-on-Trent.
 Education: Stoke Sixth Form College. Lives at Stoke-on-Trent. Single.
 Professions: Newsagent.
 Special interests: Sport.
 Club: Stone.
 England caps: 34. Great Britain caps: 11.



Colin Whalley
 Manager.
 Born: March 8, 1941; Haswell, Cheshire. Lives at St Peter Port, Guernsey. Education: Watford Grammar School. Married with a son and a daughter.
 Professions: Bank manager.
 Special interests: Cricket, golf, reading, beer and wine-making.
 Club: Hounslow.
 England caps: 49. Great Britain caps: 20.



David Whitaker
 Coach.
 Born: August 16, 1948; Harpenden, Herts.
 Education: Hitchin Boys Grammar School and Loughborough College. Married with two sons.
 Professions: Director of coaching the Hockey Association.
 Special interests: Bridge, chess, music, squash.
 Club: Southgate.
 England caps: 54. Great Britain caps: 23.

BASEBALL

Sox sock it to them

Boston (Reuters) — Boston Red Sox, who won their first American League championship in 11 years when they beat California Angels 8-1 on Wednesday, will meet New York Mets, who won the National League title by beating Houston Astros 7-6, in the final of the World Series, which begins tomorrow in New York.

"This has been a long time coming," Dwight Evans, the veteran right fielder, said of the victory of Red Sox, who have a history of losing the final game of a series, whether it be the play-offs or the World Series.

"It was destiny," Dave Henderson, the centre fielder, said. It was his home run in game five that saved the series for Sox, who were then down three games to one in the best-of-seven series.

Mets, who took a tough series in six games from Astros with a dramatic 16-inning, 7-6 victory in Houston only an hour before the American League game started in Boston, have the best record in baseball this year.

Mets reached the World Series for the first time in 13 years after the longest post-season game in baseball history, lasting four hours and 42 minutes.

SHOW REVIEW NUMBER

Horse Trials, Jumping, Showring, Driving, Dressage.

PLUS: Reports, profiles and results from the Horse of the Year Show and the latest cross-country events.

HORSE and HOUND EVERY FRIDAY

FOOTBALL: DUTCHMAN REWARDED FOR HIS PERSEVERANCE

Rangers grant Fenwick wish

Queen's Park Rangers have "reluctantly agreed" to place Terry Fenwick on the transfer list for a month at his own request.

The England defender, aged 26, has been troubled by injury since returning from the World Cup and was unhappy at being asked to play in midfield.

While Fenwick has run out of patience, Brian Clough restores Hans Segers, the Dutchman, to Nottingham Forest's goal for Rangers for the first time in 13 years after the longest post-season game in baseball history, lasting four hours and 42 minutes.

"I was so impressed with his attitude that I put him on first team bonus although he was not getting a whiff of the action," said Clough. "He was rewarded for never complaining, getting on with the job and awaiting his chance."

Segers' second team vigil lasted 41 matches after a knee ligament injury in October 1985 until Steve Sutton, his replacement, was struck by a copycat injury at Leicester last Saturday.

The Forest manager is also planning a new contract for Franz Carr, his dynamic wing, aged 20, whose pure pace has attracted the attention of major clubs. Carr's current term does not end until next summer, but Clough said: "I'll not wait until the last moment. I shall have contract talks with him shortly."

Trevor Christie has been transferred to Walsall for £20,000 — less than two months after joining Manchester City from Derby County.

Christie, aged 27, who arrived at Maine Road as part of the £100,000 package that took Mark Lillis to Derby, scored three goals in his first four matches for City, but has failed in the last six games. Now Jimmy Frizzell, the City manager, has his sights on Inre Varadi, West Bromwich Albion's unsettled forward and had him watched in the Central League this week.

Tony Galvin, Tottenham's Republic of Ireland winger, had a cartilage operation this week and is likely to be out of action for at least six weeks. Paul Allen is likely to replace Galvin for tomorrow's home game against Sheffield Wednesday.

Frank McAvennie, seems likely to be ruled out with hamstring trouble from West Ham's match at Norwich, the first division leaders, opening the way for Paul Goddard to join the starting line-up for the first time this season.

John Fashanu, the Wimbledon forward who has missed the last two games because of a blood clot in the kidney area, has been given the all clear to resume training and Dave Bassett, the manager, hopes he might be fit to return for Sunday's match at Coventry.

Glyn Hodges (rib injury), Brian Gayle (knee) and Lawrie Sanchez (virus infection) are all doubtful — which could mean a surprise return for Gerry Francis, the former England captain who signed for Wimbledon on a non-contract basis from Bristol Rovers and played for their reserves at Wycombe on Wednesday.

Neville Cooper, out with a groin injury since Aston Villa's £350,000 summer signing from Aberdeen, emerged untroubled from a midweek reserve game and is lined up for his first division debut against Newcastle at Villa Park tomorrow week.

Paul Franklin, aged 23, the Watford centre defender, has joined Shrewsbury on a month's loan and will make his debut against Derby at Gay Meadow tomorrow.

Smith admits to ignorance

George Smith, the new manager of Gateshead, makes no secret of the fact that he knows little about the standard of football in the GM Vauxhall Conference.

"I haven't seen a single game in the league this season," he admitted. "When I was told my first game was at home to Maidstone United I had no idea they were at the top of the Conference, who made nearly 500 appearances for Barrow, Portsmouth, Middlesbrough, Birmingham City, Cardiff City, Swansea City and Hartlepool in a playing career that spanned 15 years, has been given his first taste of management following the resignation last week of Terry Hibbit.

Hibbit, the former Newcastle United midfielder, left because of increasing business commitments outside the game and frustration at the club's poor start to the season. Gateshead are second to bottom of the Conference table with only 12 points from 15 games and have the worst defensive record in the league.

Hibbit had been in the job only seven months, having taken charge after the resignation of Ray Wilkie, who moved to Barrow. Wilkie left with Gateshead leading the Conference and it came as a surprise to many when the job of manager was not offered to Smith, his highly respected coach, who promptly left the club.

Gateshead, who had been relegated a year earlier, went on to win promotion back to the Conference at the first attempt but this season their progress has been hampered by a succession of injuries. Derek Bell and Steve Higgins are yet to play, Paddy O'Donnell is out for the rest of the season with a knee ligament injury, and Dave Faraby, Bob Hulse and Ian Donaldson have all missed several games.

Hibbit's resignation was accepted last Friday and on the following day Gateshead lost 6-0, away to Boston United. With Maidstone tomorrow's visitors, Smith knows his start is likely to be difficult. "We have a mountain to climb, but we do have time to get things right," he said. "I will give the present players an opportunity to prove themselves. I'm sure most of them are good enough because the squad hasn't changed much since I left earlier in the year."

Dave Needham, the former England international, became the second Conference manager to resign his post in seven days. He left Kettering after their 8-0 defeat at Sutton United on Tuesday, which means the club have picked up only one point from their last five matches. Standees have been to be low 1,000 and Kettering now find themselves in the bottom three. Arthur Mann, who led Boston to the FA Trophy final two seasons ago, assumes a caretaker role for Saturday's visit from Welling United, the bottom club.

Needham's departure was preceded by that of Larry Pritchard, Sutton's first team manager. His resignation, for personal reasons, ended a 20-year association with the Conference club. Barrie Williams, the general football manager, has resumed direct control of the first team for whom Paul McKinnon, in his second game since his return from Sweden, scored four times in the rout of Kettering.

BADMINTON

Indonesian stars to compete

England's protest to the International Badminton Federation brought remarkable results yesterday when five of the leading 13 Indonesians who had withdrawn from next week's British Airways Masters at the Royal Albert Hall were allowed by their country to compete after all.

They are Ick Sugianto, the world champion who is top seed in the men's singles, Erantanto and Rudy Heryanto, the second seeds in the men's doubles, and Imelda Kurniawan and Rosiana Tendean, the second seeds in the women's doubles.

The outcome is a tribute to the negotiating skills of Ian Palmer, the IBF president. It has reversed the likelihood of five outstanding finals, especially the projected men's singles contest between Sugianto and Martin Frost, the world No.1.

Eight leading players are however still being prevented from coming by the Indonesian authorities. They are Verawaty Fajrin and Ivana Lei, the top seeds in the women's doubles, Luis Pongoh and Eddie Kurniawan, two world class men's singles players both of whom were seeded, Sarwendah and Elizabeth Latief, two Uber Cup singles players and Susanto Hadidowo and Eddie Hartono, the seeded men's doubles combination.

The re-shuffled draw has proved tough on the Scots. Alex Hume in the men's singles and Elinor and Jennifer Allen in the women's doubles had been promoted and now have to return to the qualifying rounds.

BASKETBALL

Brandon is now a coach

By Nicholas Harling

Jim Brandon, the popular American who has been suffering with a back problem ever since he retired as the fairly young captain of the national team, has been appointed coach of the struggling first division club, Sunderland.

Sunderland had signed the 27-year-old forward from Brighton, the second division club, strictly as a player but when a doctor said on Wednesday that he was not up to the rigours of a first division programme, Brandon, who comes from Newark, New Jersey, immediately found himself in a different capacity, starting with last night's bottom-of-the-table home fixture with HomeSpire Bolton.

Brandon's appointment is welcomed by Dave Elderkin, his predecessor, who steps down as coach to concentrate on the administrative side of the club. "It frees me to get on with other things," Elderkin said. "I am delighted that Jim will be able to do the coaching. He regards it as an honour. He has only been able to play a few minutes this season and they have not been very effective minutes."

Elderkin originally tried to give up the coaching job in the summer, but no sooner had Sunderland announced that they had lined up a successor (to Duane Grooms from the American's French club, Gravesend), than he was holding him to his contract.

While Brandon attempts to lift Sunderland from the foot of the Carling League, Elderkin will try to persuade Falkirk, the Scottish club, to part with Russ Saunders, formerly with Birmingham, who is wanted as the replacement American.

YACHTING

Bad weather postpones long-awaited grudge match

From Barry Pickthall, Fremantle

The promised grudge match between Dennis Conner's America's Cup challenger, Stars and Stripes, and the New Zealand "plastic fantastic" came to naught yesterday, when winds of 35 knots and high seas forced the Louis Vuitton committee to cancel racing for the second time during this first round-robin series.

The race committee called a halt to the day's proceedings moments before the 10-minute warning signal should have been fired, thwarting Conner's threatened move to hoist a protest flag and ask the ruling from the International Jury on whether core samples can be taken to check that the glassfibre-moulded New Zealand yacht complies with the scantling rules laid down by Lloyds.

Yesterday's programme of races is now scheduled for today when winds are expected to moderate to between 13 and 18 knots.

The threatened protest by the Americans may now be put on ice after an announcement last night from the Yacht Club Costa Smeralda, organizer of these challenge trials, that they plan to hold a meeting for Syndicate members during the next few days in an attempt to resolve the dispute.

A spokeswoman for Conner's camp claimed yesterday that 10 of the 13 challenging syndicates own shared their view that tests should be made to check New Zealand IV's weight, and weight distribution against the Lloyds surveyor's figures.

On the separate question of keels, it became clear yesterday that the Royal Perth Yacht Club remain adamant that replacement keels for challenging yachts must be cast in the country of origin.

The British Syndicate who is faced with airtight charges of £70,000 to fly out their latest keel development in time for the final trials in December, have submitted that as keels form part of the hull, then a change of keel amounts to no more than a modification of the hull, and under the terms of the Deed of Gift controlling the Cup series, can be carried out in Australia.

Yesterday, Noel Robbins, spokesman for the Royal Perth Yacht Club said that as trustee of the Deed of Gift, his Club interpreted a change of keel as being more than a modification and would not be seeking a judicial ruling from the Supreme Court.

He did add however, that the British Syndicate was free to seek an official ruling from the court themselves and the White Horse Challenge are now expected to take up this option.

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HORSE TRIALS

Haagensen leads

From a Special Correspondent

Nils Haagensen, who won the 1979 European horse trials championships 18 months after commencing in the sport and won the alternate pennines event at Fontainebleau in France a year later, took the lead in the dressage arena at the Dutch championships three-day event at Boekelo yesterday. Starting with Skoldsmund Unik, he set up a score of 46.2 points, which was unassailable all day.

This perhaps was as it should have been, for Haagensen was a member of the Danish team at the world dressage championships held in Ontario in August. He took over the ride on Skoldsmund Unik, after former owner, Anna Hermann, fell and broke her shoulder in a three-day event which ran concurrently with the Ontario championships. Since then he

has won the Danish national championship on this horse.

Rodney Powell, on General St Majors, was the highest placed British rider, 4.8 penalties behind Haagensen in fifth place. Karen Straker, who followed Haagensen into the arena, was eighth on The Wishful Thinker, a further 7.6 penalties to arrears. Because of a number of incidents at recent international events, certain modifications to the rules are undergoing a trial here. One of the most controversial is that a fence judge may eliminate a rider if he feels that neither horse nor rider is capable of continuing the course after a fall.

STANDINGS (after dressage): 1, N Haagensen (Den) Skoldsmund Unik, 46.2; 2, E Sibbe (Neth) Autumn Breeze, 48.2; 3, P Pasquali (Ital) Varden, 50.5; 4, Powell (Great) General St Majors, 51.6; 5, Miss P Boutar (Fr) Nikado de Poce, 51.4.

POWER BOATING

Good wins for novice

It was a record day on Fowdenn yesterday with over 100 national records broken in the annual power boat record attempts week.

Andrea Chesman, aged 16, of Coventry, who only became eligible for records two weeks ago, continued her winning ways by breaking her own record on Stock 350cc hydroplane and setting a record of 41.60mph in the Stock 250cc class.

Another 16-year-old, Michael Houston, of Eccleston, St Helens, broke the record for St Helens

Stock Monohulls of 250cc with a new record of 38.25mph. Chris Appleby of Rayleigh, Essex, became the fastest record breaker of the week with a speed of 109.39mph in the OE 850cc racing outboards.

Len Moore, of Sutton Coldfield, broke the record for 2000 racing outboards with a speed of 100.01mph. Stan Ford, of Birmingham, broke the record for Offshore Cruisers 500cc with a speed of 66.76mph. Adrian Lang, of Blackburn, broke the record for Sport Outboards of 2000cc with 76.85mph and Philip Warner, of Devizes, the National Cruiser B record with 65.93mph.

YESTERDAY'S RACING RESULTS

Newmarket

2.15 (m) 1. GOOD POINT (M Hills, 4-1) 2. Best Interest (C Curran, 2-1) 3. Whittington (A Murre, 1-1) 4. ALSO RAN: E. Green, Jester, 9 Unfinished, 10. 2.18 (m) 1. M. H. L. 2. Highgate Park (M). Madness Not To, Supperhouse (M). 2.25 (m) 1. N. H. L. 2. Highgate Park (M). Madness Not To, Supperhouse (M). 2.30 (m) 1. N. H. L. 2. Highgate Park (M). Madness Not To, Supperhouse (M). 2.35 (m) 1. N. H. L. 2. Highgate Park (M). Madness Not To, Supperhouse (M). 2.40 (m) 1. N. H. L. 2. Highgate Park (M). Madness Not To, Supperhouse (M). 2.45 (m) 1. N. H. L. 2. Highgate Park (M). Madness Not To, Supperhouse (M). 2.50 (m) 1. N. H. L. 2. Highgate Park (M). Madness Not To, Supperhouse (M). 2.55 (m) 1. N. H. L. 2. Highgate Park (M). Madness Not To, Supperhouse (M). 3.00 (m) 1. N. H. L. 2. Highgate Park (M). Madness Not To, Supperhouse (M). 3.05 (m) 1. N. H. L. 2. Highgate Park (M). Madness Not To, Supperhouse (M). 3.10 (m) 1. N. H. L. 2. Highgate Park (M). Madness Not To, Supperhouse (M). 3.15 (m) 1. 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SPORT

Olympic poker players show Spanish hand

From David Miller, Chief Sports Correspondent, Lausanne

The indiscreet lobbying of Joao Havelange, the most autocratic figure in world sport, on behalf of Barcelona could cost the Spanish city success in this morning's voting to decide the host cities for the 1992 Olympic Games.

An anti-Latin mood was evident here yesterday as the summer candidates made their final technical presentations. Havelange's allegiance could be counter-productive and persuade uncommitted International Olympic Committee members to support Amsterdam, Brisbane or Birmingham.

"Havelange may be a dictator in football but he must be shown he cannot behave in the same undemocratic fashion in the Olympic Movement," an IOC member (a white non-Latin) said.

There has for several years been an increasing feeling against the dominance of Latin power in several sports and this could potentially produce one of the big upsets in one of the most important of all sports decisions involving hundreds of millions of pounds.

Havelange, one of Brazil's two IOC members and also president of FIFA, had interrupted the presentation of Falun in Sweden on Wednesday in the Winter Games presentation to say that the travelling distance between events - lengthy in Falun's case - was not a relevant factor.

This offended many. It is believed that agreement between those Latin Americans and Scandinavians for mutual support of Barcelona and Falun is one of the many clandestine deals in this million-dollar game of poker.

Yesterday Havelange walked out during the presentation by Barcelona, the favourites, as if to demonstrate his indifference to the outcome. Yet there is an acute nervousness in the Catalonian camp as they feel the ground moving beneath their feet.

This mood was intensified by the outstanding performances with words and video given first by Sally-Anne Atkinson and Herb Elliott for Brisbane and then Denis

Howell and Sebastian Coe for Birmingham. These two cities vie with Amsterdam as the choice of the neutrals.

Regrettably, it is likely that fewer than 30 per cent of the expected 85 members present will follow the objective course of Kevan Gosper, a 400 metres sprinter for Australia in the Olympic Games of 1956 and 1960. "I will not make up my mind until I have heard the presentations of all 13 candidates and then I'll sleep on it," he told me on Wednesday evening.

"This is the only way the IOC can operate with any credibility, choosing the host

Birmingham gets skating

Birmingham has been chosen to stage the 1989 European figure skating championships. They will be staged at the National Exhibition Centre from January 16-21. This is the first time Britain has hosted an event of this stature since the 1950 world championships in London in 1950.

It is 56 years since the European championships were last held in Britain.

Courtney Jones, the president of the National Skating Association, said: "With the great tradition of British skating and the number of European champions we have produced over the years, it is very fitting we should host the championships again."

There is the opportunity, after this morning's voting, for the IOC to take an important step towards giving their organization a younger and more relevant sporting image. Gosper, aged 52, is one of three candidates nominated for two places on the executive board, together with Gunnar Ericsson, aged 67, of Sweden, and Vitaly Smirnov, aged 51, of the Soviet Union.

cities on their suitability for sport and for the competitors. Of course, I shall be loyal to Brisbane so long as they stay in the race but after that I've still not made up my mind who deserves my vote.

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Birmingham state their case

From John Goodbody, Lausanne

Birmingham yesterday gave to the International Olympic Committee its allocated one-hour presentation on why it should stage the 1992 Olympic Games.

The result of the voting by the 84 members on the six candidates, Barcelona, the odds-on favourites, Belgrade, Brisbane, Amsterdam, Paris and Birmingham, will be announced at lunch-time today.

Mr Denis Howell, MP, chairman of the Birmingham Olympic Committee, was effusive after the presentation, smoking a cigar and declaring in deliberately Churchillian terms that he felt "quiet, satisfied contemplation leading on to the floodtide of victory". Mr Charles Palmer, chairman of the British Olympic Association, said: "Every IOC member said it was the best presentation they had seen so far, not that that

opinion necessarily means anything. The voting is difficult to predict because there are successive rounds of balloting with the least successful candidate dropping out until one city gets absolute majority. The block voting arrangements by such groupings as the Communist and Spanish-speaking blocks can break up if their favoured city is eliminated. The voting on the six candidates for the Winter Olympics is also influential because of a trade-off of support.

Only the IOC members know how they will react to this week's bombing in Barcelona or the noisy demonstration yesterday against Amsterdam by about 60 people protesting against the Games being held in The Netherlands.

The Birmingham delegation, which included Sebastian Coe and Judy Simpson, emphasized through film and statements their policy of giving the Games back to the athletes, stressing the convenience of using the National Exhibition Centre.

Like the other five delegations they were questioned about facilities and legislation against drugs. But unlike rival cities they also questioned about finance. The one hitch in the presentation was that, for part of the film, the English commentary was slightly out of synchronization with the action.

Williams Hills and Ladbrokes have Barcelona as odds-on favourites at 1-3, and Birmingham at 2-1.

Smirnov is certain, as representative of Eastern Europe, to get one of the places, for all the embarrassment of his stupidly critical letter of the IOC's decision to stage the 1984 Games in Los Angeles. It will be a setback if Gosper does not join him, whatever the merits of Ericsson.

Yet someone away from the European epicentre of Olympic affairs always has considerable difficulty in winning the support of members. One of those campaigning for Gosper is Zhenliang He, of China, himself a member of the executive board and a potential candidate over the next 15 years to become president of the IOC. An electrical engineer and a man of substantial cultural and diplomatic standing, he was an official of China's delegation when they competed in the Helsinki Olympic Games of 1952 and his support for Gosper could be decisive.

A further opportunity to reduce the average age of the membership, which stands at more than 60, will come with the replacement this afternoon for Julian Roosevelt, the United States representative, who died earlier this year. The candidates are Peter Ueberroth, the organizing inspiration of the Los Angeles Games, Donna de Verona, the former swimming gold medalist, and Anita de Frantz.

With many IOC members likely to be afraid of Ueberroth's influence and power - he would become an immediate candidate to succeed Samaranch - they may well opt for De Verona, an outstanding campaigner for women's interests, including sports competition, over the past 15 years.

A woman conspicuous by her absence this past week has been Monique Berlioux, the former IOC director who was deposed in 1985 by an executive board coup. Such was her dominating manner that Paris were obliged to keep her out of the front rank of their bid for fear of antagonizing voters. Her controversial memoirs are due to be published next month.



Hopeful handshake: Sebastian Coe with Juan Samaranch in Lausanne yesterday

CRICKET

DeFreitas earns his place in squad ahead of Foster

England have maintained the positive theme of their first few days in Australia by naming the strongest available squad for tomorrow's opening three-day fixture against a Queensland Country XI at Bundaberg. Only Allan Lamb, whose left knee is still recovering from the effects of an operation last month, prevents England from selecting the likely Test 12.

Perhaps the most significant selection is that of Philip DeFreitas, the 20-year-old Leicestershire all-rounder, who has pushed his way into the squad ahead of Neil Foster. But the impressive way DeFreitas has performed in the nets so far makes the decision hardly surprising.

Lamb's absence at least gives Bill Athey a chance to build on his encouraging start. The Gloucestershire opener will bat at No. 4.

The good news for England is that the captain, Mike Gatting, and Ian Botham are both almost certain to play,

despite minor scares earlier this week. Gatting, who has had a throat infection, will stay on antibiotics until the match starts. He had a solo net practice yesterday at The Gabba, Brisbane's Test ground, and declared himself happy enough. Botham, meanwhile, has responded to treatment on an infected big toe.

"We want to win all the games we play," Gatting said, who agreed that the squad was near to Test strength. "Lamb wasn't considered because he needs a little more rehabilitation on his knee. He is not far away from match fitness, but it is a long tour and there is no point taking any chances."

If the pitch at Bundaberg is as bare as locals expect, England will probably play two spinners in John Embury and Phil Edmunds and omit a pace bowler. The opposition is likely to be about minor county standard.

England's players were given yesterday off after their efforts earlier in the week, and most of them spent the time playing golf or sightseeing. But for Botham it was business before leisure. He was given permission by Peter Lush, the England manager, to take part in two promotional events set up by his Australian agent. First, he presented awards to junior players of a Brisbane club, then visited a shopping centre.

All such activities - and there are more being planned for Botham - have to be cleared by Lush, who said: "Provided the project is fair and reasonable and does not interfere with cricket, then I am happy to accept it."

The England management are trying hard to keep the pressure off Botham. But, like it or not, he is the man everyone wants to meet. As yet there have been no official approaches for any of the other 15 players to make paid public appearances.

ENGLAND: W N Shack, B C Broad, O J Gower, G W J Athey, M W Gatting, I T Botham, J E Embury, P H Edmunds, P H French, G R Embury, G C Smith, P A J DeFreitas.

TENNIS

Brave resistance by Croft

From a Special Correspondent, Stuttgart

Annabel Croft put up brave but ultimately fruitless resistance to the power of Martina Navratilova, losing 6-2, 6-0 in the second round of the Porsche Tennis Grand Prix here yesterday.

The match lasted 49 minutes, and if anything could be singled out from the world champion's array of weapons, it was her speed that left Miss Croft stranded.

"She was so fast across the net. She gets to it about three seconds faster than anyone else," the British No. 1 said. "I felt like I just wanted to go out there and have a go and I actually played quite well."

Miss Croft served first and was able to hold the five-minute opening game. That helped ease any tension she might have felt, but then Miss Navratilova won her own

service game to love and the pressure was on.

Miss Navratilova took a 4-1 lead, but then struggled to hold serve in the sixth game, eventually succeeding after three deuces. Miss Croft then held her own serve before Miss Navratilova took the first set.

Miss Croft, who earlier this week ousted Jo Durie, found her resistance slipping in the second set but was still able to laugh when she hit blistering service returns that left her opponent flat-footed.

"I might make two great shots in a game, but you have to work so much harder to make those points than you would have to do against any other player," explained Miss Croft. "I was laughing at those service returns because they were lucky. I proved that

when I hit the next three into the bottom of the net."

All in all Miss Croft enjoyed her first encounter with Miss Navratilova and "the match was played in a good spirit and I enjoyed myself. I didn't really have a chance to get nervous."

SYDNEY: Ivan Lendl and Boris Becker fell foul of officialdom here yesterday during their second round matches in the Australian indoor tennis championship.

Lendl, the world No. 1, was warned after receiving a code violation for time wasting in the opening set of his 6-4, 6-4 win over the Australian qualifier Peter Carter. Becker, the Wimbledon champion, fared even worse. He collected a \$500 fine for racket abuse during his 6-4, 7-5 victory against Australian John Fitzgerald.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Gloves on for Bruno

Frank Bruno put on his gloves for the first time since July 20 when his heavyweight world championship prospects were crushed by Time Witherspoon at the Canning Town gymnasium yesterday as unpaid sparring partner to Gary Mason, his heavyweight stablemate, who is preparing to fight Donny Long at Wembley on November 4.

"I am returning a favour. Gary has helped me and I'm helping him," said Bruno, although Terry Lawless, his manager does not want him training before Christmas. Bruno may then resume his career in March.

Doncaster duo

Doncaster rugby league club have signed Tony Kemp, a under-21 international centre and Teilmadge Sharrock, a second row forward from Waitara, a top New Zealand club.

Day in charge

Paul Day, a former international, aged 27, has been appointed chairman of England's table tennis selectors, taking from Peter Charters, while Jill Parker, the 1976 European champion, joins the selection committee.

Adams wooed

Neil Adams, Britain's judo Olympic silver medal winner, is to leave the country to take up a job in France. Adams' decision is the result of a row between him and the British Judo Association. His former colleagues in the British team see it as a disaster as there is no one with the same technical expertise as Adams.

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LeMond faith

Greg LeMond, the first American winner of the Tour de France in July, has renewed his contract in Paris with his La Vie Claire cycling team until the end of 1988. LeMond said he would only consider changing teams if an American corporation offered to sponsor a top-ranking American squad.

TV tradition

The Embassy world indoor singles championship at Coatbridge from February 7 to 15 will be played in sets for the first time, instead of the traditional 21 up. It follows the example of the other televised bowls events, the Superbowl in Manchester and the United Kingdom championship at Preston.

Troubled tie

The Cyprus government have advised the APOEL football club not to go to Istanbul for a European Cup second round tie with Besiktas, the Turkish team because of strained relations between the two countries.

Cannons fined

InterCity-Cannons, the defending champions of the American Express premier league, have been fined £300 for failing to display the correct promotional material on their new all-transparent glass court at their home fixture last week.

Fudge back

Paula Fudge, the national ten-mile road running champion, leads the Hounslow to defend the Southern women's road relay championship at Aldershot tomorrow with Jackie Cooper and Annette Roberts.

Hoddle makes Robson gasp in admiration

By Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent

Glenn Hoddle has, at last, walked out of the shadows of uncertainty. Since it has taken him six years to collect 40 England caps, his journey towards international recognition has been long, slow and often disrupted. His arrival, timed to within a fortnight of his 29th birthday, is therefore all the more reason for celebration.

He started it in 1980 at the invitation of Ron Greenwood, Bobby Robson's predecessor. There has since never been any question about Hoddle's technical ability, which has been compared justifiably to that of the golden Brazilians, but doubts about his mental and physical commitment have always hung over the wisdom of his selection.

At home, that is. Foreign opponents have been bemused, and equally relieved.

whenever Hoddle has been omitted from the side. He may not run around like a dervish or tackle like a steamhammer but they regarded the quality of his passing and the width of his imagination as potentially far more fearsome weapons.

Bobby Robson once stated that he planned to build England's future around Hoddle's talent. Subsequently, like Greenwood, he felt that it was an expensive and unreliable luxury that was too often hidden from view. Both recognized that he could change the destiny of a game, but they were never convinced that he would.

Tottenham Hotspur solved the same problem by lifting the burden of responsibility on to someone else's shoulders. Arnie was bought to assume the role of an attentive prompter, constantly providing him with possession, and this season Roberts is acting as his protective shield.

On Tuesday morning Robson selected a new assistant for Hoddle, a player who could provide "the necessary defensive reassurance". The chosen man was Bryan Robson. Although they were able to put the plan into practice for no more than half an hour, their partnership flourished at Wembley on Wednesday.

The blend, one of the most encouraging features of the 3-0 victory over Northern Ireland in the opening European championship qualifying tie in group four, will be beneficial for all but Wilkins. His chances of reaching a century of caps would seem to rest on the availability of Hoddle.

"I had to get more out of Hoddle as an attacking player", Robson reflected yesterday. "That is where his gifts lie. I decided to try Bryan in a holding position since he can

do that and still time his runs into the danger area. We had a long chat about it on Tuesday night and it worked well.

"Hoddle made a couple of mistakes but you can forget that over 90 minutes. I told him that he couldn't afford to wave goodbye to players as they went past him and he responded. He was in there tackling. He also moved forward more than he has done for two years and we need him to do that.

"He can do anything in training, you know, and his shooting... Robson was momentarily lost in admiration. "He was unlucky with that lob that just cleared the bar and with that header that hit the post as well. His finishing can be lethal. He scored 18 goals three years ago but then he went through a stage of stopping 25 yards out. Yes, he did well. I was as pleased with him as I have ever been."

Though his namesake was less prominent, Robson is convinced that his captain will be "so suited to his new role. He has so much to contribute and his presence alone is worth half a player. He has had more than his fair share of injuries and I hope he now has five clear years ahead of him."

As long as the others remain fit, Robson is unlikely to alter his line-up for the tie against Yugoslavia next month, except in the middle of his defence. Although Butcher was once more a solid pillar, Watson was shaky. His distribution in particular was as wild as one of his challenges.

It looked as though he had mistaken Stewart for the ball. Robson, sitting a couple of yards away from the incident thought that Watson "was going to give Billy Bingham a wedding present by kicking his left winger into his lap. I was surprised that Stewart got up and carried on."

Scholar's no

The Tottenham chairman, Irving Scholar, will not be standing for the place on the Football League management committee vacated by Luton's John Smith. Smith resigned from the committee earlier this week in the wake of the Luton Littlewoods Cup affair and Scholar had been widely tipped to replace him.

Waddle, who answered his audacious critics in the audience by claiming England's second goal, will be allowed "to win the crowd over". Lincker, the scorer of the other two, already has. Appropriately, Adidas yesterday gave him his reward, a golden boot, for finishing as the League's top marksman.

Lincker also stole the individual honours against a young Irish side being developed realistically for the World Cup finals in 1990.

Gough's colleague worries Scotland

By Clive White

Richard Gough's attitude towards his new Tottenham team-mate, Nico Claassen, is likely to become somewhat confused over the next couple of years. There will be times when he will want him to succeed, other times fail. But Claassen's goal-scoring aptitude, as illustrated by his three goals on Tuesday for Belgium, will be a constant reminder for Gough of what his other team, Scotland, patiently lack.

Unless this gaping difference between these two opposing countries is closed very quickly - like next month when Scotland receive Luxembourg - then the Scots might as well call it a day in group seven of this European championship.

Their third consecutive goalless draw against the Republic of Ireland in Dublin on Wednesday, though satisfied their needs of the moment, did nothing for those of the future. In a five-team group with four fairly evenly matched sides, as reflected by three drawn games among them, the overall winner is going to be the side who most effectively pummel the punchbag, namely Luxembourg. Belgium hit the mark six times in midweek.

Unlike Scotland, who can fantasize that things will get better just by changing the names up front, the Irish have no such recourse to dream. They have no one better than Stapleton or Aldridge who both sweated blood and tears in the Irish cause on Wednesday yet still barely managed a shot on target between them.

Scotland have scored just twice in their last seven games and the rot goes even deeper than that - 12 goals in the last 19 games. Indeed, not counting McAvannie's goal against Australia last November, you

have to go back to November, 1984, to find the last time a Scottish forward scored. Johnston and Dalglish shared three goals then against Spain and are just one of the variety of permutations that Jock Stein, Alex Ferguson and Roxburgh have tried since.

Just about all of them have been exhausted, though what appears to be the most obvious one, Dalglish and McAvannie, have only been tried once in the match against Austria in Glasgow. This combination has the right ingredients of

Group Seven table with columns for Team, P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts

REMAINING FIXTURES: November 12: England v Yugoslavia, Turkey v Northern Ireland, April 2: Northern Ireland v Scotland, April 26: Northern Ireland v Yugoslavia, Turkey v England, October 14: Yugoslavia v Northern Ireland, November 11: Yugoslavia v England, Northern Ireland v Turkey, December 18: Turkey v Yugoslavia.

cunning and pace but Dalglish's form for Liverpool this season has yet to scale the peaks of last.

The Sharp-Johnston mix looked right for Wednesday's job but they never seriously troubled the Irish centre-backs. Defence remains Scotland's surviving virtue even if they have succeeded in overlooking the obvious claims of their most distinguished defender, Hansen. The Liverpool captain was run a close race for man of the match by, appropriately, his centre-back partner, Gough. That, at least, is one association they have finally got right. They are nobody's fool, as Charles may discover when Scotland visit Brussels next April 1.

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